FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-059
Wednesday
9 March 1989

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-059 *29 March 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Reportage on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit 1
Journalists To Attend *[Havana Radio]* 1
Welcoming Planned in Havana *[Havana TV]* 1
Minister Katushev Comments *[Havana TV]* 1
Soviet Cooperation in Energy Program Noted *[Havana Radio]* 1
Need To Increase Quality of Cuban-Soviet Trade *[Havana Radio]* 1
Spanish Communist Leader Meets Castro; Departs *[Havana Radio]* 2
Angolan Official Arrives on 'Exchange Visit' *[Havana Radio]* 2
Chilean Socialist Leader Optimistic on Elections *[Havana TV]* 2
Aguirre Meets Netherlands Parliament Members *[Havana Radio]* 2
Fernandez on Preparations for Pan-American Games *[Havana TV]* 2
Commentary on Government Receiving Drug Money *[Havana Radio]* 3
Sugar Ministry Reports 'Setback' in Planting *[Havana Radio]* 3
Minister Says 4 Percent Food Production Increase *[Havana Radio]* 3
Vilma Espin Presides Over Sixth FMC Plenum *[Havana TV]* 3
Correction to CEMA Time, Frequency Meeting 3

Jamaica

Opposition Leader Seaga on Passing IMF Test *[CANA]* 4
Police To Join Peacekeeping Force in Namibia *[CANA]* 4
Debt Rescheduled With Japan, Netherlands *[CANA]* 4

Trinidad and Tobago

Poll Shows Robinson's Popularity Wanes *[CANA]* 4

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias Praises U.S. Agreement on Contra Aid *[San Jose Radio]* 6

El Salvador

Commentary on 'Illegitimate' ARENA Government *[Radio Venceremos]* 6
Paper Publishes Official Election Results *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Mar]* 7

Guatemala

Cerezo 'Will Not Negotiate' With Prisoners *[Hamburg DPA]* 7

Honduras

Foreign Minister Comments on U.S. Contra Aid *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 8
Azcona To Present Economic Counterproposal *[LA TRIBUNA 28 Mar]* 9
Nicaragua To Pay Electric Bill to ENEE *[TIEMPO 22 Mar]* 9

Nicaragua

Contras Propose Meeting With Opposition *[ACAN]* 9
'Latest Attack' by Honduran Army Reported *[Managua TV]* 10
Radio Catolica on Resumption of Newscasts *[Managua Radio]* 10

Panama

Solis Palma Cited on Elections, 'Struggle' *[Panama City TV]* 10
Noriega Discusses Role of FDP, Elections *[Panama City TV]* 13
Further on PDC Leader's Statements, Reaction *[ACAN]* 13
Statements on FDP Clarified *[ACAN]* 14
Polls Show ADOC Ahead With 'Strong Lead' *[ACAN]* 15
Arias on Possible Government Election 'Fraud' *[Panama City TV]* 15
Duque Rejects Revision of Neutrality Treaty *[CRITICA 27 Mar]* 15
Selection of Election Observers Proceeding *[Panama City TV]* 16
Observers Issue Linked to U.S. 'Destablization' *[CRITICA 28 Mar]* 16
PDC Flag Manufacturing Center Vandalized *[Panama City TV]* 16

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Crespo Views Air Force Role in Elections *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 18
Joint Fishing Venture Launched With PRC *[DYN]* 18
Ministry Official To Attend Atlanta Debt Talks *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 18
Bomb Damages Union Premises in La Plata *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 19
April, May Basic Minimum Wage Established *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 19
'Struggle Against AIDS' Commission Established *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 19

Bolivia

Deputy Labels U.S. Presence in Viacha 'Illegal' *[Madrid EFE]* 19
U.S. Technicians Viewed *[La Paz Radio]* 20
President Paz Invited To Attend Amazon Meeting *[Madrid EFE]* 20

Brazil

Train, Bus Drivers Strike in Rio de Janeiro *[Brasilia Radio]* 20
Army Tests Nuclear Emergency Evacuation Plan *[Brasilia Radio]* 20
* Engesa, Avibras Technical Problems Noted *[O GLOBO 7 Feb]* 20

Chile

'United Left' Leader Almeyda Visits Moscow *[Moscow PRAVDA 24 Mar]* 22
Holds News Conference *[Moscow International]* 22
Real, Thorough Democratic System Desired *[Santiago Radio]* 23
Note Proves CUT Wanted To Boycott Fruit, Wine *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Interpol Asks Swiss Police To Capture Buschmann *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Disturbances Broken Up Near Brazilian Embassy *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Police Arrest Two 'Terrorists,' Uncover Weapons *[Santiago Radio]* 25
Antarctic Convention on Mineral Resources Signed *[EL MERCURIO 18 Mar]* 25
Counterfeit Ring Discovered; $100,000 Seized *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 18 Mar]* 25

Colombia

Barco, Perez Meet at Border; Discuss Cooperation *[Bogota TV]* 26
M-19's Pizarro Leongomez Interview *[Bogota Radio]* 26
* Liberals View Presidential Selection Process *[SEMANA 28 Feb]* 33

Ecuador

President Says Opposition Behind Coup Rumors *[Quito Radio]* 35

Paraguay

Presidential Inauguration Announced for 14-15 May *[ABC COLOR 28 Mar]* 35
Laino Outlines PLRA's Draft Platform *[HOY 28 Mar]* 35
True Liberal Party Registers With JEC *[ULTIMA HORA 28 Mar]* 37

Peru

Garcia Invited to Amazon Meeting in Manaus *[Lima Radio]* 37
Narcoterrorists Reportedly Attack Police Post *[Madrid EFE]* 37
Interior Ministry Communique *[Lima TV]* 37
Policeman Killed by Alleged Terrorists *[Lima Radio]* 38
Attackers Derail Railroad Car, 3 Killed *[Lima Radio]* 38
Japan Grants $2.5 Million To Promote Crops *[Lima TV]* 38

Uruguay

Italy To Finance Projects for $152 Million *[EL DIA 9 Mar]* 38

Venezuela

* Fernandez Criticizes Perez' Economic Program *[EL UNIVERSAL 26 Feb]* 38
* Dean of UCV Economics School on Debt Problem *[EL UNIVERSAL 25 Feb]* 40

Cuba

Reportage on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit

Journalists To Attend

FL2803175689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Report by Victor Antilov, Soviet correspondent in Moscow]

[Text] Among the journalists here in Moscow, we, of course, are talking a lot about the upcoming visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to Cuba. Yesterday I attended a briefing [preceding word in English] granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More specifically, I can tell you that the first group of Soviet journalists has already left. Radio and television is now being represented in Cuba by Comrade Yushkyavichyus, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

I will leave on 30 March with another larger group, a total of 60 comrades from newspapers PRAVDA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, and other media.

When we, journalists, were talking about our future work, we all agreed that above all we are dealing with a very important event. We all think that the personal meetings between Mikhail Gorbachev and the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, will clarify many things. Finally, it will also give a very important thrust to the systematic development of economic, commercial, and political relations between the two countries.

As a journalist, my feeling regarding this visit is that I can't wait to be among you soon.

Welcoming Planned in Havana

FL2803182089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] On Sunday [2 April], more than 600,000 residents of the capital will participate in welcoming Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU secretary general.

[Begin recording] [Rolando Cairo, coordinator of the Havana City Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, identified by caption] We think that this will be one of the largest mobilizations that our organization has coordinated to receive a statesman in our country. Those comrades participating in the mobilization to greet Gorbachev will depart from the traditional gathering points in their blocks. Each municipality has a strategic mobilization plan which is based on the distance between the territory [as heard] and their corresponding streets of Boyeros, La Plaza, Malecon, and Fifth Avenue. The comrades will leave their area according to a timetable which has been established by a mobilizing commission presided over by the party. [end recording]

Minister Katushev Comments

FL2803013989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 89

["Interview" with Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations of the USSR, by Ismael Tantaw, permanent Cuban correspondent in Moscow, "over the weekend;" in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation—recorded]

[Text] [Katushev] It will be an extraordinary event at the international level and in the relations between our countries. This meeting will undoubtedly give our leaders the opportunity to discuss global issues of interest to all humankind. Undoubtedly, this meeting will give our leaders the opportunity to discuss extensively the state and outlook of the development of our cooperation, to consult each other on the best ways to reach the goals identified jointly in our cooperation and the development of life in all areas in our countries. This visit—these meetings—will undoubtedly be an outstanding event in the life of our countries.

Soviet Cooperation in Energy Program Noted

FL2803233589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Forty percent of the capacity installed in the basic industries' electrical system amounting to over 3,000 megawatts comes from Soviet power plants installed in our country. This is part of the USSR cooperation for energy development. Soviet cooperation is also present in energy projects of the magnitude of the Cienfuegos nuclear power plant and in Granma, where a group of powerline installers of the brother country is taking electric power to the Sierra Maestra Mountains.

In addition to their special contribution to the high voltage program, Soviet cooperation presently includes the supply of three-phase and single-phase transformers that used to be imported from the capitalist area and are being used in the eastern provinces. There are numerous professionals of the electricity sector in Cuba who have been trained in the USSR as part of the cooperation program in this important area.

Need To Increase Quality of Cuban-Soviet Trade

FL2903010589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Trade between the two countries will reach higher qualitative levels as a result of the upcoming visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU. This was said by Ivan Pesovskiy, representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR in Cuba, during an interview granted to Radio Reloj.

Pesovskiy said Soviet foreign trade officials will hold negotiations with Cuban colleagues as part of the program of the visit of the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to this capital. The Soviet specialist stated: We

are certain that during those meetings, Cuba and the USSR will find the appropriate ways to transform trade into a more dynamic and efficient relationship.

The plan is to strengthen Cuban-Soviet trade even more as an example of economic relations between brother countries, said Pesovskiy. The permanent representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR in Cuba asserted that the fundamental task of the organization he heads is to contribute to develop an exemplary trade for the benefit of peace and socialism.

Cuba and the Soviet Union need to trade goods in higher quantities but with much more quality, insisted the USSR expert. Therefore, we believe that positive changes favorable for the two sides will result from the meetings of representatives of foreign trade of Cuba and the USSR.

Spanish Communist Leader Meets Castro; Departs
FL2803145189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received in Havana Julio Anguita, secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party. The two officials discussed the situation in Europe, the Third World, the sociopolitical situation in Spain, and the process of reunifying the Spanish Communist Party. Anguita called for a Spain that represents the Third World in Europe and he said his country's current government does not use, to the maximum, the potential that Latin America offers Spain.

The Spanish communist leader paid a 6-day visit to Cuba at Fidel's invitation. He returned to his country last night.

Angolan Official Arrives on 'Exchange Visit'
FL2803155689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1451 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Maria Mambo Cafe, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the secretariat of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Labor Party, has arrived in Cuba on an exchange visit. Mambo Cafe is responsible for youth, social, and mass organizations. The Angolan official will be in our country until 3 April.

Chilean Socialist Leader Optimistic on Elections
FL2903020589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] I am optimistic because I believe that the Chilean people are going to face the elections together. This was said by former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda, who is visiting Cuba. The secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party met with ambassadors and representatives of parties and national liberation movements at the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] today.

Almeyda said the Chilean people showed with the no vote that they are capable of confronting the shameful Pinochet dictatorship. He added that this victory made possible for elections to be held in that southern cone country soon.

The leader of the Chilean left-wing noted: We do not have victory at our doorstep because there are still obstacles that need to be eliminated and gave as examples the need to triumph in the elections and break the institutional framework the dictatorship has imposed. Later he stated: Chile will shape its own destiny; 15 years of dictatorship are enough. We need to recover democracy and reach higher forms of collective coexistence, said Clodomiro Almeyda.

Aguirre Meets Netherlands Parliament Members
FL2803225489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has met in this capital with a delegation of parliament members from the Kingdom of the Netherlands that is visiting our country. On behalf of the top organ of the state government, Aguirre del Cristo expressed his appreciation and joy for the visitors' presence and gave them an overview of the achievements of the Cuban people after the triumph of the Revolution.

Gerhard Johan van Hattum, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Cuba, said this visit corresponds with the good friendship existing between the two peoples and highlighted the mutual understanding that prevailed in the cordial exchange.

During their stay in our country, the parliament members will meet with party and government leaders and visit the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Institute and Expocuba, among other places of socioeconomic and cultural interest.

Fernandez on Preparations for Pan-American Games
FL2903022789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the committee organizing the XI Pan-American Games reported back to the Pan-American Sports Organization executives at their regular meeting held at the Palace of Conventions today. Regarding the constructions and preparations, the Cuban leader said:

[Begin recording] The organizing committee has intensified at this stage its efforts in organizational tasks, especially those related to the investment process planned for the event. The plans are virtually completed and much work is being carried out in the construction of installations, the procurement of funds and technical material resources which the event demands.

Regarding construction, the changes in the landscape of eastern Havana can already be noticed. This is where the majority of the sports installations and the Pan-American village will be concentrated. Finally, I want to express to you the certainty, trust, and conviction of not only the organizing committee and the Cuban Government but also of all our people that the XI Pan-American Games will be a success in 1991. [end recording]

Commentary on Government Receiving Drug Money

FL2803183489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The subject of drugs is not an issue for the Cuban people. They are not interested in it, other than from a political point of view. There is no production, market, or consumption of drugs here. During 3 decades of revolution, not a single gram of narcotics has entered the country—contrary to the quantities used by hundreds of drug traffickers, including hundreds of U.S. persons, who ventured into trespassing across our national borders in their boats or planes.

In 30 years, not a single Cuban official has ever been involved in drug trafficking. Not a cent has ever entered Cuba from drugs from anywhere in the world. Everyone knows this very well. This is also known by the U.S. authorities, themselves, despite certain campaigns.

So why this Cuban attitude toward this phenomenon which is so widespread today in the West? Simply because, as Fidel has said, it is a matter of principles, ethics, and respect for our laws. Every person who has been caught here with drugs has been arrested and severely convicted. Furthermore, we don't do this out of any obligation to the United States, because we do not have an obligation to the country that blocks and attacks us.

Cuba is the only country that won the drug battle 30 years ago. Today, Cuba is one of the most drug-free countries in the world. The art of the struggle against drugs is what Cuba will show the UN experts on drugs who are visiting us at the invitation of the revolutionary government.

Sugar Ministry Reports 'Setback' in Planting

FL2803143689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] The Cuban Sugar Ministry [MINAZ] has reported that there is a serious setback in the country in preparing the land for the next sugarcane planting. The report indicates that up to the moment, only one-fourth of the designated land is ready for planting. The MINAZ assessment indicates that having all the land prepared before 30 April is a primary goal in order to plant the winter sugarcane crop.

Minister Says 4 Percent Food Production Increase

FL2803163989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1446 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Cuban Food Industry Minister Alejandro Roca has said in Pinar del Rio that food production should increase no less than 4 percent this year. He says that this requires efficiency, working with absolute dedication, and a rapid identification of problems that need to be solved, no matter how difficult they may be. The food industry minister also said that the raw material will primarily come from the agricultural-livestock sector and joint work is expected in milk production. Increased production of yogurt, pasteurized milk, cheese, and ice cream is also expected.

In the article that appeared today in the TRABAJADORES newspaper, Roca stressed that the tendency to spend unnecessary resources must be eliminated. In the case of milk production, he added, this means reducing losses and waste.

Vilma Espin Presides Over Sixth FMC Plenum

FL2803184889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] The sixth plenum of the national committee of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] began today with the presence of Vilma Espin, president of the women's organization, and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, both members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The first session of this plenum, which will continue through tomorrow, began with the assessment of agreements and the fulfillment of the 1988 work plan. Initial discussions dealt with the notable increase in FMC membership. The delegates also noted how much has been gained in cadre stability upon improving elemental conditions on a material basis in the country's provinces and municipalities. [sentence as heard] The participants also stressed achievements in the preparation of young cadres and the systematization of this reserve. Among other topics discussed was the importance of ideological work in reference to incorporating women into the work force, especially in the Turquino Plan.

[Begin Espin recording] You will recall that about 3 years ago, the FMC was very concerned that there was a large number of unemployed women and women who had very serious social problems in Manzanillo. We spoke to the party. We spoke to Damian [not further identified]. I should also stress here that a study has been conducted in the areas of Campechuela, Media Luna, and Buey Arriba on the search for employment and work centers for women, including in the Turquino Plan. [end recording]

Correction to CEMA Time, Frequency Meeting

FL2803214589

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "CEMA Time, Frequency Council Meeting Begins," published in the 28 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 3:

page 3, column one, last paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...basis for the metrological accuracy [aseguramiento] in all...(changing "meteorological" to "metrological")

Jamaica

Opposition Leader Seaga on Passing IMF Test

FL2803145089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 25, CANA—Opposition leader Edward Seaga has suggested that he be consulted by the new Michael Manley administration on how to pass International Monetary Fund economic performance tests due at the end of the month.

Seaga, who was prime minister and minister of finance until his electoral defeat last month, has been blamed by the new administration for overspending and failing to sign loan agreements during the last days of his government, thereby putting pressure on achieving IMF targets. But new Finance Minister Seymour Mullings has said that things were now under control and Jamaica was on course to meet the funds criteria.

Seaga said in a speech here Friday that Jamaica was still facing problems, because the government had not taken appropriate measures. Seaga said that based on pre-election cooperation, his party should have been called on "to give a brief on what is the present requirement to pass the upcoming IMF test and what needs to be done...urgently." The request had not come from the new government, Seaga said, who suggested that Jamaica's chances of passing the test were slim. "If that had been put to us, I would have responded positively because we don't want to see (the economy) destroyed," the former prime minister said. Unfortunately, no such briefing has been asked of me.

Seaga said that the new government should be kept on the same course set by his administration. He also said his Jamaica Labour Party, heavily trounced in the election, was undergoing "introspection" and was preparing to regain the government.

Police To Join Peacekeeping Force in Namibia

FL2803164789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2058 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 27, CANA—Jamaica will send 25 policemen to Namibia as part of the United Nation's peacekeeping force preparing for independence of that southern African country.

The GLEANER newspaper here quoted Police Commissioner Herman Ricketts as saying that the Jamaican contingent, to be part of a United Nations peacekeeping police force of 500, will leave in mid-April. "It's a good opportunity for us to play our part," Ricketts said.

Namibia is moving to independence from illegal control by South Africa's white-minority government under a deal worked out between Pretoria, Angola and Cuba.

In exchange for South Africa's withdrawal of the territory which it has held in defiance of the United Nations, Cuba is withdrawing its troops from Angola over a 30-month period. Cuba moved 50,000 troops to Angola in 1975 during a South African invasion in support of right-wing rebels seeking to overthrow the country's Marxist government.

Under the deal, South Africa and the United States are to end support for the rebels. Elections will be held in Namibia in November.

Debt Rescheduled With Japan, Netherlands

FL2803221089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1959 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 28, CANA—Japan is lending Jamaica U.S. 20 million dollars for hurricane rehabilitation and has also formalised the rescheduling of U.S. 5.5 million dollars in debt in line with the agreement Kingston worked out with the Paris Club last October.

Holland also formalised the rescheduling of U.S. 12 million dollars of Jamaica's debt last week when the finance minister, Seymour Mullings, was in the Hague for a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The agreements for the Japanese loan and rescheduling were signed in Kingston Monday between Jamaica's financial secretary, Harold Milner and the Charge d'affaires in the Japanese Embassy here, Noboru Kawaggishi.

The U.S.20 million dollar loan is to assist in the rehabilitation of economic sectors damaged when Hurricane Gilbert struck Jamaica last September. The money will buy textiles, chemicals, fertilizers, building materials and foodstuff. It is for 18 years at 2.9 per cent. There is a seven-year grace period before repayment begins.

The rescheduled U.S. 5.5 million dollars is owed by Jamaica to Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and its Export/Import Bank.

Under the agreement with the Paris Club, Jamaica is able to reschedule U.S. 158 million dollars due between June 1988 and November 1989, covering 100 per cent of both interest and principal. The rescheduling is for 10 years, with a moratorium up to July 1994.

Trinidad and Tobago

Poll Shows Robinson's Popularity Wanes

FL2803161989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 26, CANA—Two-thirds of a sample of Trinidadians and Tobagans are dissatisfied with the performance of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, says the latest poll by the St Augustine Research Associates [SARA], released here Sunday.

The poll was conducted between February 20 and March 6. At the time of the last poll, in March 1988, 62 percent of those polled said they were dissatisfied with Robinson's performance.

In just over 2 years since the National Alliance for Reconstruction came to power, 27 percent of those questioned were very dissatisfied with Robinson's performance, and 36 percent of the 1,034 people polled said they were dissatisfied. While 25 percent said they were satisfied with the leader's performance, three percent said they were very satisfied, and eight percent could not make up their minds.

In results which were the opposite of the 1988 polls taken after NAR deputy leader, Basdeo Panday, was kicked out of the cabinet, more disillusionment was found among the population of African descent than in the Indian community.

In the last poll, published in June 1988, 71 percent of persons of Indian stock were dissatisfied compared with 54 percent of those of African descent.

This time around, 71 percent of Africans were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with Robinson. Sixty-three percent of Trinidadians of Indian descent fell into this category.

The largest racial group which voiced satisfaction with Robinson's performance—41 per cent—were of white, Chinese, and Syrian origin.

But a breakdown according to religion indicated that the country's Hindus were the most dissatisfied (72 percent). While the country's many other religions fell below this, the lowest level of dissatisfaction was to be found among Roman Catholics (55 percent).

Older people were also less satisfied with Robinson than the younger generation, SARA said. Among the over 35-year age group, 66 percent of those polled were dissatisfied. In the 18- to 34-year age group, 56 percent were not happy.

In a breakdown of figures according to occupation, the largest number of dissatisfied people (74 percent) were unemployed. Sixty-nine percent of public servants registered the second highest level of dissatisfaction, followed by the self-employed (61 percent) and blue collar workers (59 percent).

In terms of social class, the levels of dissatisfaction ranged from the so-called lower strata (71 percent) to the middle and upper strata (58 percent).

Breaking down the survey in terms of political affiliations, 55 percent of those who said they voted for the NAR in December 1986 said they were dissatisfied with Robinson's performance. While 39 percent of NAR voters said they were satisfied with Robinson's performance, 88 percent of those who voted for the People's National Movement (PNM) were dissatisfied.

SARA, based at the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), bolstered its reputation with an accurate prediction of a PNM general election loss after 30 years in power.

Costa Rica

Arias Praises U.S. Agreement on Contra Aid

PA2803140589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1223 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has praised the U.S. bipartisan agreement that outlines President Bush's Central American policy. The determination to honestly, sincerely, and in good faith support Central American efforts to find a solution to the conflict at the negotiating table is very important, President Arias said. He added that for a long time we have been telling the world that dialogue must replace military pressure and that war leads to nothing. President Arias said the U.S. agreement is another success for Costa Rica because the country's voice has been heard and it has been decided that dialogue should be used to search for solutions to the regional conflict.

President Arias has described the change in Washington's Central American policy as very positive. Arias feels the Bush administration's decision will be supported by the whole world because everyone supports a political solution to Central America's problems.

President Arias thanked President Bush for using Arias' February 1987 phrase: There can be no democracy without peace in Central America. The Costa Rican president said the U.S. bipartisan agreement teaches us a great lesson. It is proof of great flexibility and determination to bury fanatism and dogmatism. Arias said there will be some rightists and leftists who will not agree with this; however, the majority of the U.S. people support the bipartisan agreement. Arias added that the lesson this agreement has taught is that war can solve nothing, and that peace and democracy will only be won at the negotiating table. Arias added that the Nicaraguan people must decide their own future.

Regarding El Salvador, President Arias said it is time for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to understand that war is not the way to achieve power and that the problems of that tormented country will not be solved by war. Arias added that Cuba, the USSR, and all those who are not convinced that the only way to achieve peace in Central America is through the ballot and not the bullet should learn from the bipartisan agreement. Arias said this agreement should make all Costa Ricans happy because for the past 2 years we have been telling the world that dialogue is the tool with which to achieve peace.

El Salvador

Commentary on 'Illegitimate' ARENA Government

PA2803230489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Station commentary: "The ARENA Government: Strong or Weak?"]

[Text] The so-called resounding victory of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] in the recent 19 March elections is undoubtedly a new turning point in our nation's history. All analysts agree that the counterinsurgency strategy sustained for 8 years by the Reagan administration, at a cost of $3 billion, has failed. This is quite true. ARENA's election victory did indeed manage to destroy the former U.S. Administration's counterinsurgency strategy in El Salvador. However, the question dominating both the local and international scene is: What will happen now? What is going to happen in El Salvador?

First, we must discuss whether the government assuming power on 1 June is legitimate or illegitimate. The 19 March elections took place within a framework of general warfare. Over 50 percent [words indistinct]. The highways were deserted. The capital was in a state of chaos, having been left without water or electricity. San Salvador was also the site of numerous clashes, including air attacks and an armed presence in the metropolitan area, an event which has no precedent in this war. We also attacked the regime's military garrisons. There was fighting throughout the country. There was a major military deployment to the country's major cities. Some 7,000 troops, including two war battalions, were deployed to San Salvador alone.

These facts obviously contributed to the fact that a large number of Salvadorans did not vote, but fought instead. This enormous Salvadoran contingent did not even register for the elections. Of those who registered, hundreds of thousands did not obtain their voter identification cards. Of those who obtained their cards, hundreds of thousands did not vote. Of those who for one reason or another did vote, several thousand voided their ballots. According to official figures, over 50 percent of those registered abstained from voting.

According to the always suspicious figures released by the Central Electoral Council and published in Monday's issue of the newspaper LA PRENSA GRAFICA, only 510,116 of those who voted for ARENA in the 1984 elections voted for that party this time.

It must be noted that the other official figures published by EL DIARIO DE HOY differ remarkably from those published by LA PRENSA GRAFICA. There the official number of those who voted for ARENA only represents 12 percent of the electorate. Other analysts have even said that ARENA only represented 9 percent of the electorate, obviously making the ARENA government illegitimate.

In addition, the fact that the voters' absenteeism surpassed 50 percent and that thousands of Salvadorans were fighting shows that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is the largest force in the country.

ARENA is an illegitimate government, a government of a minority that will rule over a majority. The FMLN proposal issued early this year tried to make the elections a path toward peace. This proposal also sought an understanding among the forces that want national

peace and development. This proposal questioned the legitimacy of the 19 March elections. That became the main issue, overshadowing the elections themselves.

ARENA will be an illegitimate government, which is nothing new in this country. The governments over the past 60 years have also been illegitimate. However, the ARENA government will rule over a special situation: The country is at war. In addition, objective reasoning has compelled the world to promote the negotiations process.

It is no secret that ARENA represents the country's most reactionary sector. ARENA is linked to the death squads and is an antidemocratic party [words indistinct] whose party song states: El Salvador will be the tomb of the Reds [rojos]. To ARENA, Reds are those who believe in social justice and who fight for it: Msgr Romero, to cite an example.

It is untrue that ARENA has become moderate. All one had to do is listen to preelection remarks by [ARENA leader] Roberto D'Aubuisson and [Crusade for Peace and Work member] Orlando de Sola to confirm ARENA's antidemocratic and reactionary philosophy, making this party an uncomfortable ally for the United States. ARENA has placed the U.S. Government in an uncomfortable position. The U.S. Government finds it difficult to have a bipartisan policy toward El Salvador, which is very important because Washington is the main pillar of support for the power structure in our country. The ARENA government will be a contender with Pinochet and Botha for international condemnation. Domestically, the policy of repressing reforms—in other words neglecting reform and continuing repression—is a step backward that will increase the number of popular and democratic forces fighting for genuine social reform.

In conclusion, the ARENA government will be illegitimate in a country that cannot be ruled because of the dual power structure existing in El Salvador, complicated by support from Washington, which is vital at a time when the people's unrest and the revolutionary war are increasing. ARENA's government will be weaker than that of the Christian Democratic Party, despite the fact that it will have control over the three government branches and the Army, and will wield economic power. The future will prove our theory. In future broadcasts we will continue presenting commentaries analyzing the 19 March election results.

Paper Publishes Official Election Results

PA2803135089 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 89 p 6

[All figures as published]

[Text] Official results of the 1989 presidential election for the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], PCN [National Conciliation Party, CD [Democratic Convergence], and other parties:

Department	PDC	ARENA	PCN	CD	Others	Valid Votes	Total Votes
San Salvador	97252	147691	5962	18205	6056	275166	288225
Santa Ana	35050	47136	5512	4016	2197	93911	101238
San Miguel	22917	30913	2451	1070	1098	58449	61816
La Libertad	35320	58776	3789	4532	2289	104706	112154
Usulutan	14953	26469	2165	806	1174	45567	49057
Sonsonate	37525	46340	3644	1792	1662	90963	98290
La Union	16286	16114	1416	284	966	34782	37562
La Paz	13836	25125	1782	964	970	42677	45748
Chalatenango	10852	14058	1765	376	1296	28297	30562
Cuscatlan	8266	24280	1443	1078	803	35870	38618
Ahuachapan	20645	28882	4022	1527	1494	56570	61488
Morazan	8244	10804	2222	262	771	22303	24950
San Vicente	11579	15518	864	454	478	28893	30983
Cabanas	5644	13264	1181	276	559	20924	22462
Total:	338369	505370	38218	35642	21479	939078	1003153
Percentage:	36.03	53.82	4.07	3.80	2.28	100.0	

Guatemala

Cerezo 'Will Not Negotiate' With Prisoners

PA2903022189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Mar (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today rejected the demands for pardons and reduced sentences by hundreds of prisoners who have been rioting since Sunday at the Pavon prison farm, 20 km east of the capital. The government said it will not negotiate with the rioters and urged them to surrender.

Cerezo said it is his government's policy not to yield to demands and noted that time is on the authorities' side.

According to reports outside the prison, which only firemen and Red Cross members are allowed to enter, the prisoners are tired and very nervous. The rioters took

control of the prison after seizing the guards' weapons. In the shoot-out that followed, at least six persons were killed, including three prison guards.

The prisoners, who are holding hundreds of hostages, have no food, and there is little water. It is feared that the convicts will try a mass breakout, even though the Army has set up machineguns around the prison.

The government admitted today that carelessness in the prison's internal security allowed the prisoners to seize the weapons and ammunition. Guatemalan radio and television stations have reported on the mistreatment and poor prison conditions endured by the more than 1,000 prisoners, which apparently sparked the riot.

Honduras

Foreign Minister Comments on U.S. Contra Aid

PA2803183589 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1748 GMT 27 Mar 89

[News conference with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and unidentified reporters and moderator; date and place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Lopez] ...in the United States or in Sweden follow the balance of forces throughout the world, and they have admitted that Nicaragua has carried out the largest arms buildup in Latin America in the past 20 years. Cuba ranks first, followed by Nicaragua. We are not involved in an arms buildup, and the negotiations in which Honduras has participated—even though it has not been a Honduran problem—have always been aimed at protecting our safety. We have not done this by increasing supplies and troops, but by trying to get the five countries to decrease their troops and supplies to levels that would be acceptable to all of us.

Regarding your question on guarantees that the humanitarian aid will not be used for other purposes, I think everyone knows that more than a year ago—since February, when military aid to the contras was cut off—they have received no military aid from the United States. This is why they left Nicaragua, why they left the territory they occupied and sought refuge in Honduras. Further guarantees? I think they are provided by some clearly identified institutions like the Honduran Catholic Church; a private international verification institution, Price Waterhouse, which was included at the request of the U.S. Congress to verify the type of aid that is received; and the most important guarantee, the one the congressmen themselves established, that the contras will continue to receive this aid as long as they refrain from undertaking military operations while the political process of normalization—their repatriation, that is—is being implemented under the supervision of the five Central American governments.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct] Reynosa, TIEMPO newspaper.

[Reynosa] Mr Foreign Minister, you insist on using the term armed counterrevolutionary groups. Do you think humanitarian aid for those groups will be used as military aid because it is being given to armed groups? Also, a private U.S. group today said that Honduras, the Honduran Government, had yielded to U.S. pressure to allow the distribution of that new U.S. aid. They also said this endangers the implementation of the peace process in Central America and the recent agreements reached in El Salvador.

[Lopez] I do not know who could have said that, but whoever it was does not know a thing about the peace process. President Daniel Ortega signed the Costa del Sol agreement. The Costa del Sol agreement does not forbid humanitarian aid; it forbids military aid but not humanitarian aid. This does not mean that Honduras yielded to pressures that do not exist, pressures that never existed. If you review the recent statements made by President Arcona and the ones I have made, you will see we have been clear in stating that as long as the process does not result in a solution to the Nicaraguan conflict, it will be important for Honduras—for security reasons—that there will be humanitarian aid. However, this does not mean the aid will be distributed in Honduras for the next year; it simply means we can expect some help from the U.S. Government to solve the problems. I think they have been very clear in stating that the U.S. plans and the decisions being made by the five presidents are quite compatible.

This does not mean there are no differences because each country.... [changes thought]. Nicaragua could have been chosen as a site for the distribution of the aid; why not! But only if the process is sped up and the armed groups resettle in Nicaragua. If this were the case, then there is nothing to stop the United States from distributing the aid in Nicaragua. As far as Honduras is concerned, that is our goal.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister [words indistinct] in San Jose on Thursday. What plans will be discussed?

[Lopez] We have definite ideas to suggest, but I do not wish to talk about them at this time. We must wait for the San Jose meeting. I do want to assure you that we are going to present these ideas with great professionalism and seriousness.

[Reporter] Will the issue of demobilization be included in the agenda?

[Lopez] Of course; it is one of the most important topics of the Costa del Sol agreement.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct] Garcia of EL HERALDO and DPA.

[Garcia] One of the conditions for the release of the $45 million in humanitarian aid to the contras was that an investigation be carried out to determine if human rights have been violated; some U.S. Congressmen feel there

have been violations. We have learned that a Nicaraguan mixed commission—government and others sectors—will be here tomorrow and will visit the camps—refugee and (?contra) camps—where several Nicaraguan citizens are apparently being held against their will. Can you expand on that?

[Lopez] We are strongly opposed to the idea of foreign armed groups holding people against their will in our territory. We have made this very clear. The Honduran Government issued a resolution a few months ago demanding the release of everyone being held against his will. This was done. I have no knowledge of other persons being held against their will. If there are, then this would be in violation of the Honduran Government's orders. Every time that direct or indirect contact has been made with the contra leadership, we have stressed that Honduras is not a country where foreign armed groups can have their own jail system. This violates our sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Azcona To Present Economic Counterproposal

PA2903004289 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona said yesterday that the government is continuing to prepare a counterproposal for presentation to the IMF and the World Bank concerning the reorganization of the Honduran economy.

Azcona said that all Honduran sectors agreed that we must take measures and reach an agreement, "but that those measures should cause the least possible sacrifice for the people."

President Azcona added: "We are studying ways to respond to the IMF and the World Bank. We will take measures regarding income taxes and we will change gasoline prices."

As for income taxes, Azcona said that the government will find ways to force more people to pay their taxes, because at present only wage earners and some businessmen pay their income taxes.

Azcona added: "There are many businessmen, cattlemen, doctors, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals who do not pay income taxes and receive much higher salaries than a private or a public employee who earns 700, 800, or 1,000 lempiras [ratio not given]. That is unfair."

Azcona said that there are liberal arts professionals who declare revenues for 3,000 or 4,000 lempiras a year when the truth is that they receive 30,000, 40,000, and even 100,000 lempiras a year. "We are all aware of this practice, which must not continue."

Regarding gasoline prices, President Azcona said that the measure will not affect the government itself "because public vehicles have been consuming less gasoline over the last 3 years, although one cannot deny that there are still people who commit abuses."

Nicaragua To Pay Electric Bill to ENEE

PA2403232989 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Nicaragua will begin paying its debt to the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) beginning 1 April, Jeronimo Larios, the general manager of BANASUPRO [National Supply Agency for Basic Products], has announced.

According to Larios, BANASUPRO will benefit from this payment because Nicaragua will pay its electric bill with staples and metal products that Honduras needs.

The debt amounts to $11 million. Nicaragua will pay $7 million with chicken, pork, beef, and agricultural products such as rice, chemicals, and chicken feed.

The remaining $4 million will be paid with metal products, agricultural equipment, and iron and aluminum bars.

BANASUPRO officials were in Nicaragua last week to negotiate this arrangement with the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, the National Rice Corporation, and the Metal Industry Corporation of Nicaragua.

Larios said that these negotiations are beneficial to ENEE because it will recover a lot of money and to BANASUPRO because it will be better able to supply Honduran consumers with Nicaraguan products.

Regarding staple prices, Larios said that there will be strict compliance with the prices established by the domestic trade office.

Larios noted that the prices of some products are controlled by this office and that the price tags on others are reviewed by BANASUPRO, which sets reasonable prices for consumers to pay.

Nicaragua

Contras Propose Meeting With Opposition

PA2803224189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2137 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The contras have proposed a meeting with the "Group of 14," the main opposition bloc in Nicaragua. At the meeting, which would be held in Guatemala, the two groups would "exchange impressions" on how the Sandinist government is complying with the agreements reached at the presidential summit in El Salvador.

Gustavo Tablada, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN), who will present the anti-Sandinists' proposal to the "Group of 14" today, told ACAN-EFE about the proposal. Tablada added that on 17 March he received a letter in which the rebels invited the domestic opposition to a meeting in Guatemala at an undetermined date.

The PSN leader did not explain why he waited until today to disclose the contents of the letter signed by Adolfo Calero, Roberto Ferrey, and Aristides Sanchez, three of the seven members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate.

The PSN leader reported that the anti-Sandinists requested the meeting with the "Group of 14," made up of the parties represented at the National Assembly as well as other groups, with the "intent of exchanging impressions and finding common ground." The rebel leaders said in the letter that they were willing to organize the meeting "as soon as possible, because circumstances in Nicaragua demand it."

The leaders of the opposition bloc, which ranges from the right to the left, have not decided if they will accept the invitation from the RN Directorate.

Tablada said, however, that he would like the opposition to attend the meeting. The "Group of 14" will meet today to decide if they will accept the rebels' proposal.

The anti-Sandinists recently received support from the White House and the U.S. Congress, who announced that the contras would receive $45 million in humanitarian aid over the next 10 months. This bipartisan decision aims to pressure the Sandinists into complying with the promises for democratization made at the El Salvador presidential summit.

'Latest Attack' by Honduran Army Reported

PA2803173789 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] According to a Nicaraguan Defense Ministry report issued today, the Honduran Army has harassed various Sandinist People's Army border garrisons 39 times this year.

The report says the latest attack took place Sunday [26 March] at Las Lomas de las (?Trenzas) and Cerro de los Esclavos, southwest of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department. The attack was carried out with 81-mm mortars, large-caliber machineguns, and RPG-7 rocket launchers.

Radio Catolica on Resumption of Newscasts

PA2803232289 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Editorial by Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo]

[Text] If there were a man who cared little about his freedom, it would be necessary to build a wall around him so that his disease would not infect the rest of mankind. With this thought, we want to begin a new phase of the "Church" ["Iglesia"] newscast, which was silenced in July 1988. Since that date we have struggled for the reinstatement of our legitimate rights, which are guaranteed by the universal declaration on human rights.

We begin this [words indistinct] new time. We begin following the Easter celebrations [4-second break in reception] time of hope, a new time that becomes more significant with Christ's resurrection. The "Church" newscast also wants to be new—new in its contribution toward reconciliation, new in its style of broadcasting truthful reports. We want to accompany the Nicaraguan people in their moments of happiness and sadness, joy and hope. We have no commitments to any specific group. We want to work for everyone's welfare. We want to make our contribution to a truly reconciled society in which there is no place for hate and violence.

We value highly the gesture of recognizing that the church's radio station should have a newscast. A legitimate right is being reinstated and the truth is being recognized; 85 percent of the population follows the Catholic Church's leadership. No one can ignore the Catholic Church's leadership, a fact that was reasserted by the church's ability to summon the people to participate in Easter activities.

We assume the challenge of informing the people truthfully and objectively. We intend to work tirelessly to achieve reconciliation. We hope that this concession of freedom is not merely the result of a calculated move by the government.

Panama

Solis Palma Cited on Elections, 'Struggle'

PA2903030589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2324 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the Omar Torrijos Military Base in Rio Hato, Panama Province on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] I want to begin my speech with a number of assertions. The first one is that the elections will be held on 7 May 1989 without a doubt, so let all speculation end. [applause] The second assertion is that there is only one path to follow in the 7 May elections, and that is the victory of COLINA [National Liberation Coalition], because otherwise the country will disappear, and we

cannot let that happen. [applause] The third assertion is that on 1 September I hope to be able to place the presidential sash on Carlos Duque. And I say hope not because I doubt Carlos Duque's victory, but because I hope I will have the opportunity to place the sash on him. It will be an honor for me. [applause]

My fourth assertion is that those who are not supporting the leaders in this struggle—the [COLINA's] presidential nominees—are seeking personal victories and are betraying the Panamanian revolution. [applause] After today there are 37 days to do all that we can do to openly obtain a resounding victory in the elections before the eyes of all Panamanians and all countries in the world. We cannot fail in that determination and attempt.

The 7 May elections are undoubtedly the most important elections in our country's history, and I am not exaggerating. They are the most important elections in our history because, as all the previous speakers have said, the nation's destiny is at stake in these elections. A revolutionary process, whose benefits have been briefly delineated by Darinel Espino [Democratic Revolutionary Party secretary general], Ramon Siero [COLINA first vice presidential candidate], and Ernesto Perez Balladares [government supporter and former government official] is also at stake.

At the risk of repeating what others have already said, I want to point out some specifics. When I accompanied the COLINA presidential nominees to the Los Santos Province 7-2 electoral district, a journalist asked me: Did you begin your political life between 1941 and 1942 while a member of the Panamanian Student Federation? I answered yes. He then asked: Did you later join the Youth Patriotic Front? I answered yes. And then he asked: Did you ever consider becoming president? I answered no.

It is true that politicians become politicians because they hope to become presidents. I, however, had ideals and pursued goals. I am no dupe and have never been one. In 1942, if a humble man born to a peasant family from Los Santos thought of becoming president, he was crazy, simply because humble men could not aspire to high-ranking positions then. Those positions belonged to the Panamanian oligarchy and the wealthy. [applause] It is not that I thought that I did not deserve to become president, but that the country did not offer opportunities for a humble man to become president at that time.

I am one of those who left the country in 1968 because of the revolution. I did not start the revolution. On the contrary, I fought it from the beginning. When I returned to Panama, however, I found that the conditions existed that would allow me to occupy the Presidency, because the country's political conditions had undergone a radical change. [applause]

Thanks to that change, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander of dignity, is the commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. He holds that position because the rule that only people with noble last names and only people who served the most ill-fated interests could occupy FDP positions has disappeared. [applause] Rules like those once held sway in the country. We had to face those rules. No one would be able to deny that. Torrijos' ideas allow us now to speak and to assess all the progress the country has made, including progress in health, education, energy, and communications systems. That progress allowed political power to be transferred to the Panamanian people.

When we hear a peasant talk with authority, logic, and determination and without fear, we realize that his attitude is not only the result of traditional education, but the result of the people's participation in society, which allows peasants to talk, to defend their rights, and to present their views with dignity, clarity, and courage.

Such achievements would not have been possible if the 1968 revolution had not taken place. [applause] That is what we will defend. That is what we cannot allow to be lost. The smallest communities now have their own representatives, despite all the errors that may have been committed. Before 1968 it was not imaginable that a Cuna or Guaymi Indian could win a seat at the National Assembly, because the Assembly was reserved for representatives of the large companies or those who were servile to those companies. Today, however, the Assembly has authentic representatives of the Indian community.

Many errors have been committed, true, but they must be corrected. We must engage in self-criticism. Why not? All movements throughout the world have committed immense errors. But all in all, we cannot be ashamed of our revolution. It is inconceivable that the youths of a certain political party, who do have something to be ashamed of not only in Panama but almost in every part of the world, proudly display their party's flag, while our youths sometimes begin to hide the COLINA parties' flags because they are afraid. What are they afraid of? [applause] There are many more reasons to raise the flags of all the COLINA parties with the same dignity and pride shown by other parties, who have done nothing but ask for foreign intervention to sell us to the United States. They are the ones who should not be proud of their party. [applause]

Therefore, gentlemen, let us look at things as we should: without fear. There is no chance of losing, because we cannot allow it. It is not a matter of replacing one government with another. It does not mean replacing one person with another. It involves continuing the struggle for the Republic's freedom. The revolutionary process had different stages. It began with an immense strength, outlining clear objectives for the common good and allowing the participation of humble classes in the country's political life. It gave opportunities to the middle classes and to the lower middle classes. Many

who benefited from this opportunity turned their backs on us recently, thinking we would fall, but they were wrong. Those who gave us 2 weeks must remember this. Today we are celebrating being in power more than 13 months, despite all the crises we have had, because there has been dignity, courage, and conviction. [applause]

I would say the first stage lasted 10 years. Then the problems came. There was a misconception over the proper role of the FDP, the Republic's most revolutionary and most dignified institution. Fundamental errors were committed, such as the elimination of the Assembly of Representatives, which was the genuine representation of the people. [applause] And other errors were committed. But we cannot, I repeat, be ashamed of them. They are facts that occur in all revolutions and in all processes in any country.

What we must be proud of is that the momentary drawback was overcome by Manuel Antonio Noriega, who professionalized the institution even more, making it more dignified, more patriotic, and more nationalistic. That is why we are defending the fatherland's dignity today. [applause] That is what counts: knowing how to correct ourselves, finding the right men for every occasion. And we are moving forward.

Many things have not been accomplished, that is true. There is timidity and lack of decisions. I want to tell the ministers, the deputy ministers, and the directors and deputy directors of autonomous state institutions that doing a good job is not enough. One must be a nationalist and a Panamanian. To allow persons who are betraying us to be inside our institutions is tantamount to being an asshole, and we cannot continue to do this. [applause] If a relative is against us, we cannot consider him our relative. Either he is a relative and is with me, or I am not his relative. Furthermore, nobody picks his relatives—they just happen. [applause, laughter] But one must know how to choose one's friends.

We cannot put personal interests, friendships, or family ties before the national struggle. We must be strict. Whoever wants to have a soft heart should leave now, because we have to move ahead without hesitation. [applause] We have been asking for dismissals for a long time. Let us show our teeth so the world, and especially those who support us, know about it. We will use our power to safeguard the national progress we have made. Things remaining to be done should be taken into account by the presidential candidates. They have every right to criticize the government, and we should not feel offended or take that personally. We want them to consider the government's performance as a whole. If something was not done well, the presidential candidates are obligated to point it out, because this revolution has to grow stronger every day.

I do not want to become involved in controversy, and I do not know if I am soft or tough, but we have to strengthen the revolution. Changes must be made. We have to make them now, with all the necessary effort. [applause] We have to take some concepts to heart. I agree with Ramon Sieiro when he says that things should be done gently, but, I add, they should be done soon and profoundly. [applause, laughter] We have to follow that path. We cannot jump from 6 to 12 years in one day; however,, we must achieve the goal of completing 12 years of education, although we may do so gradually. We must make changes rapidly and without hesitation because the world lies before us. There is a scientific, technological revolution that will not wait for us. Whoever is left behind will stay behind. We cannot stay behind. That is our challenge; that is the presidential candidates' challenge. That is what they must do. They must criticize the fact that certain changes have not been made. We should not be bogged down in bureaucratic procedures. Whatever we do is reflected in the community, and that affects the candidates. [applause]

The presidential candidates can criticize and they can explain why they did not do something before. There are two basic reasons: First, at the beginning we had to work hard to stay in power. We had to struggle to remain in power hour by hour. There was no time to plan ahead. Our mission was to remain in power, and we achieved that. Thirteen months later, we have begun to breathe a litte easier, despite the money that was withheld. Today we can do many things that we could not do before, and that is why we are doing them now. It is not because we are demagogic. We have a deep desire to serve the Panamanian people, regardless of what those who have not yet understood us say. This is your mission. You must convince yourselves. You must believe in change so that you can express yourselves and so that others can understand you. When things are said with love, with dignity, and with conviction, one is successful because when one is not convinced, one cannot convince others. One must be convinced, and that is the role each of us should play.

We should multiply our efforts each day. We must continue this process, and I am sure we all will. I am not one of those who thinks that public employees should be persecuted by virtue of their position. However, now there is no option. Whoever opposes the government is turning themselves over to the United States. The United States intends to continue pressuring us. They have said that as long as Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega heads the FDP, they will not change their position. Well, they will be waiting forever, because he will not leave. [applause]

This means that we must work hard; we have to strengthen ourselves from within. We have to seek support from those who are not selling their souls to the northern power. We have to seek that support everywhere. We must be sure of that. Our innner strength will prevent us from becoming one more star on the U.S. flag. That will never happen as long as there are men like Gen Noriega, the FDP, and people like you, who have shown an abiding love for the fatherland. It is because of this

love, it is because of this dignity, that I ask you not to rest your body and soul—something that Foreign Minister Ritter says has already happened—until we have been victorious and are certain of victory on 7 May, for we will win. We can have nothing less than victory. Gentlemen, let us go forward, and whoever stands in our way will be eliminated. We must unfortunately get rid of those who fall asleep and who do not do their duty. I only ask you to unite. All parties should grow as much as possible. No one who is working for us should be persecuted. We cannot kill ourselves, and we should stop counting our chickens before they hatch. [applause]

Noriega Discusses Role of FDP, Elections

PA2903023989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0026 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, during a ceremony with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and "top government officials" to commemorate the formation of the Dignity Battalions, on 28 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Within the FDP system, it would have been easier for us to reach an agreement with the establishment. It would have been easier to make amends with... [Noriega corrects himself] to give in to what Americans want, which is the military bases. However, the military bases are part of the pledge made when the Torrijos-Carter treaties were signed. This pledge was that no one owns or can bind future generations with any base or any new treaty. [applause]

It would also have been easier to irresponsibly lend or risk our men to do dirty jobs against a friendly nation such as Nicaragua, or to have ceded Coiba Island to serve as a base from which to launch attacks on Nicaragua or to be used as a supply base during attacks on the Nicaraguan people. In this regard, there is the easy path of [Christian Democratic Party leaders] Arias Calderon and Willy Cochez, but none of those sitting here were born to play those roles or to take that path. [applause]

Our institution has its own defense mechanisms. It expels, at a given moment, foreign bodies from its womb. It reacts when it feels threatened. It does not react to wreak evil. It reacts simply because it is an institution of the Republic. It was born with the Republic. An effort was made to destroy it in 1904, when Esteban Huertas' army was disarmed and transformed into a police force made up of members carrying whistles and sticks for the benefit of the United States, in order to assure the United States that there could be no reaction when it had to intervene in Panama—like it intervened, later on, after the tenants' struggle in Panama City and in Chiriqui. By then, the institution was already a completely disarmed police force.

I support what the president said: No matter whether done rapidly or slowly, we must eliminate structures. There are many structures that served in the sixties, the seventies, and the eighties, and enemies of the revolutionary process infiltrated into those structures. The responsibility of men who were in these structures was to put an end to this, because a change was already evident, constant, and could not be stopped.

It cannot be stopped today because we have reached a stage where receding is not only not a good strategy, but it jeopardizes past accomplishments, the ideological security of those who agree with us, and the reality of the liberation of this Panama which we have helped build, without limping; we are not afraid of limping. Therefore, today, when we commemorate the creation of the dignity battalions, it is the best time to say that we will not be passive witnesses to anybody's victory other than that of the National Liberation Coalition. [applause]

Further on PDC Leader's Statements, Reaction

PA2803221789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's election campaign has heated up over the past few days as a result of charges and countercharges by the military and Ricardo Arias Calderon, the opposition candidate for first vice president, who suggested that the FDP headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega should be purged. The FDP officially declared an "alert" at "all command levels" because of what it described as the "devious plans" of Arias Calderon and his Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. The FDP added that Arias Calderon and the PDC are working in complicity with the U.S. Embassy. The confrontation has increased rumors in political and diplomatic circles about the eventual postponement of the 7 May elections, and Arias Calderon himself says that the FDP's reaction to his statements are an effort to "justify canceling the elections."

Arias Calderon, vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), unleashed the government's fury when he said that a "sincere concerted effort between civilians and military is necessary" so the elections can be "authentic and democratic." The candidate said it is essential to "agree on a new professional and constitutional role" for the FDP that will require Noriega's retirement as commander of the FDP, the center of real power in Panama since the 1968 military coup.

According to diplomatic sources, the FDP was deeply hurt by Arias Calderon's statement that in the future the FDP should be treated the way the Uruguayan military was treated after democracy was restored in that country, rather than the way the Argentine military was treated after that country's military relinquished power. In a brief note yesterday, Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon, a

member of the FDP General Staff, said that Arias Calderon's statements, which he described as "threats," prove that the PDC is making "devious plans."

Arias Calderon responded in another brief communique by saying that Castrejon's words are "cynical" because the PDC is not threatening the FDP; it is the other way around, the PDC leader said. The vice presidential candidate listed a series of "attacks" against the PDC's leaders and followers, blaming "government supporters sponsored by Noriega."

Arias Calderon said that the FDP's reaction is "farcical" and part of the "psychological warfare" dictatorships use to carry out frauds or justify the cancellation of elections."

Arias Calderon and Noriega have even had personal, sometimes insulting, confrontations. Arias Calderon often alludes to the general's alleged ties to drug trafficking.

The latest edition of CIVILISTA, a PDC bulletin, reports that Arias Calderon recently recently said on a radio program that the Panamanian people must vote for the ADOC to "get the thorn that Noriega is out of their side." "Minutes later," the bulletin adds, "Arias Calderon received a phone call from Noriega, who, from the telephone in his car, told Arias Calderon in a menacing tone that the opposition had better be careful, because instead of getting the thorn out of its side it may be driving the thorn further in."

Arias Calderon said the COLINA, which comprises eight progovernment parties, "is trying to disrupt social order with false arguments" in response to the "imminent election defeat" the opposition foresees.

The progovernment newspaper CRITICA, meanwhile, recently accused the PDC and the U.S. Embassy of planning to publish false information after the elections to "generate violence." Terry Kneebone, the embassy's public affairs officer, denied the accusations, which he described as a "propagandist lie typical of the regime," adding that the government "is afraid of an honest vote count."

The opposition claims polls give the ADOC a lead over COLINA. Several public opinion polls confirm this.

COLINA political sources say the government is focusing on Arias Calderon because he and the PDC are the most belligerent and radical of the opposition groups. These sources say there would be little possibility of negotiating with the opposition if the ADOC wins the elections.

According to a COLINA candidate who is running for a legislative seat, Gen Noriega and the government believe they could negotiate and reach an agreement with the opposition presidential candidate, the populist Guillermo Endara, but Arias Calderon's presence in the ADOC makes such negotiations much more difficult.

Statements on FDP Clarified

PA2903043589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition today announced that it is willing to seek an agreement with the military if they retreat to their barracks and if a deadline is set for the retirement of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, explaining that "the country's reconstruction cannot be accomplished just by prosecuting military officers."

In a communique delivered to the media today, Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, the ADOC's candidates for the Panamanian Presidency and vice presidencies, softened the tone of a recent Arias statement taken by the FDP as a "threat."

On 23 March, Arias said that "a frank, concerted effort by the military and civilians" is essential and that the FDP's retreat to the barracks had to be "more similar" to that which occurred in Uruguay than to that which occurred in Argentina, following those two countries' return to democracy.

Military and government circles regarded this remark as threatening the prosecution of FDP commanders and, in view of this, the FDP officially declared itself "on alert." Noriega, the FDP commander and the Panamanian regime's "strongman" since 1983, said: "They should quit threatening us, because they are going to force us to confront them."

Today the three ADOC candidates confirmed their intention to make a concerted effort with the military, but explained that the retreat to the barracks will be made "through agreement" and never "through the prosecution of military officers." According to Endara, Arias, and Ford, Panama's democratization demands "a frank, concerted effort by civilians and military personnel to guarantee that the FDP will form part of the Panamanian Government as a professional institution that will be subordinate to the Executive Branch."

This concerted effort, they added, must lead to an agreement on "the retirement of the current FDP commander through the establishment of a set term in office for FDP commanders, which no military chief should exceed." "This agreement would lead to a revision of Law 20 by consensus," the ADOC candidates explained, referring to the regulation that controls the institutional role of the military and police forces.

"Panama needs a highly professional force for national defense and public security. For this reason," the opposition added, "the ADOC platform includes respect for the institutional integrity of the FDP, under a legitimate civilian authority."

The opposition insisted that it is willing "to begin, as soon as possible" a concerted effort which it feels is "as indispensable as the elections in enabling the Panamanian people to find a democratic and peaceful solution to the crisis." Endara, Arias, and Ford also stressed that ADOC "is determined to continue the electoral struggle, certain that ADOC will emerge victorious on 7 May."

Polls Show ADOC Ahead With 'Strong Lead'
PA2903002389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2009 GMT 28 Mar 89

[All figures as received]

[Text] Panama City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—All the polls concerning the 7 May elections released in Panama thus far show Panama's ADOC with a strong lead over the progovernment COLINA.

A Venezuela-based poll conducted between 19 February and 5 March at the request of the Panamanian opposition PDC reveals that 58 percent of the people polled prefer ADOC and 22 percent prefer COLINA.

According to the same poll, which was conducted throughout the country, 87 percent of the Panamanian people will go to the polls on election day.

A COLINA legislative candidate said that polling results available to them also show ADOC with the advantage, "although only with a ratio of 60 to 40, and that advantage is diminishing."

Another poll conducted among university students in January showed that 54 percent of the polled students said that they would vote for the opposition, 6 percent said that they would vote for the government candidates, 16 percent were undecided, and 24 percent were not going to vote at all.

The Venezuela-based poll included a question regarding the future of General Manuel Antonio Noriega—FDP Commander and "strongman" of the Panamanian regime since 1983—after the elections.

According to results released by the PDC, 41 percent of those polled said that Noriega must "retire," 16 percent said that he must be "removed," 21 percent said that he must be "brought to trial," and only 6 percent said that he must remain in power.

Another poll conducted by a private Panamanian firm in one of Panama City's main electoral districts, which includes mostly high-income and middle-class neighborhoods, revealed that 63 percent of those polled sided with the opposition, 27 percent sided with the government, and 9 percent declared themselves independent.

On 7 May, Panamanians will elect their new president and two vice presidents for the next 5 years and will vote for 67 seats at the Legislative Assembly.

The main presidential candidates are Guillermo Endara for ADOC and Carlos Duque for COLINA.

According to the polls, although the FDP command is not at stake, on 7 May many Panamanians, instead of voting for one of the aforementioned candidates, will vote for or against Gen Noriega remaining in power.

Duque, Noriega's associate and personal friend, has said that he will rule the country in conjunction with the FDP, while the opposition promotes a "concerted effort between civilians and the military" to include an agreement regarding Gen Noreiga's retirement and the military's return to their proper role in the barracks.

Arias on Possible Government Election 'Fraud'
PA2903004989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC candidate for first vice president, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias] Even in countries experiencing violence, like El Salvador, the election results were known in less than 24 hours. The Salvadoran Government was not contemplating fraud. If the results of the 7 May elections are not known in less than 24 hours, we can be sure it is because, as in the last elections, the government is planning fraud. The government has the means to provide the results in a few hours, and that is what should be done.

[Reporter] How has the ADOC been able to carry out its election campaign all over the country and in Panama City, considering the obstacles it has encountered?

[Arias] The people's reaction is extraordinary. There is no doubt the overwhelming majority of Panamanians already plan to vote for the ADOC and against the COLINA and the person it represents. The people are not the cause of the difficulties. Quite the contrary, the difficulties arise from persons close to the regime. In Arraijan alone, PDC militants have twice been attacked by persons close to the local progovernment candidate. We have heard of several incidents of violence against PDC candidates for legislator. Some PDC candidates have been arrested, something that flagrantly violates the election code. None of this will stop us. The ADOC and PDC candidates react emotionally to the people's emotion. These strong feelings will pave the way for the opposition's victory and will establish the guidelines for building democracy in Panama.

Duque Rejects Revision of Neutrality Treaty
PA2903044889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Mar 89 p 1

[Article by Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque has told local reporters of "the anti-Panamanian and politically defeatist maneuver by the ADOC, which has staged a farce by requesting that the neutrality treaty be reviewed, saying that it is harmful to our national interests."

Speaking on behalf of COLINA candidates, Carlos Duque Jaen said that "every Panamanian knows that ADOC leaders have never protested the U.S. violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

"What these gentlemen want," he added, "is to prevent the United States from fulfilling Article V of the neutrality treaty, which clearly establishes that after the year 2000 only the Republic of Panama will run the canal and have defense sites."

The next Panamanian president said in his statements that COLINA candidates have made a commitment to Panama and to the world to fight so that the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties are respected. He described the treaties as "Panama's contribution to the brotherhood among the peoples of the world." He added that they are also "a recognition of our nation's sovereign rights."

Duque took the opportunity to deliver a message to public employees, saying that their job stability can only be guaranteed by "a serious and progressive government committed to the country's social development and which deeply respects the workers."

"They, the ADOC people, will never be able to guarantee the stability of public employee jobs, as the revolutionary process headed by Omar Torrijos did," Duque said.

Duque added that "by taking advantage of the worst economic crisis in the country, ADOC would have dismissed public employees just as it dismissed thousands of workers from its private enterprises."

Finally, Carlos Duque Jaen noted that only a few months ago the group that opposes the current administration said that Panama's public administration could operate with 60,000 employees, and that therefore the government had to dismiss some 90,000 more employees whose jobs this administration has retained.

Selection of Election Observers Proceeding

PA2903010789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2302 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Interview with TEP Secretary Carlos Bonilla by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bonilla] The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP] has already formed a commission that will write the invitations to the observers. The commission is headed by Cynthia de Samsom. The TEP will primarily invite members of the Inter-American Institute for Electoral Studies, CAPEL, which is a branch of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. We will also invite representatives of the Central American countries which have attended almost all the meetings [not further identified], including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, as well as representatives from the Lesser Antilles, including the Virgin Islands, St Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and others. Those are more or less the countries that will participate in observing the 7 May elections.

[Reporter] What is the total number of observers?

[Bonilla] I cannot tell you the exact number right now, because we will invite presidents and magistrates of the electoral tribunals of the various countries. It is expected that two representatives from each country will come to observe the elections.

[Reporter] Can political parties invite their own observers?

[Bonilla] We have been clear on this in all our statements. We have said that the only official international observers that the TEP will recognize will be the ones we invite. We have no reason to give any credentials or documents to other observers. We will only give credentials to those whom we invite. The TEP will officially attend to those observers.

Observers Issue Linked to U.S. 'Destablization'

PA2903041289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 2

[From the "Today in the World" column by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] [U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto wants to repeat in Panama his experience as master of political destabilization, which he successfully carried out in the Philippines. Jorge Richa [not further identified] has filed a request at the TEP Tribunal for an independent committee to oversee the Panamanian elections. The list of "observers" includes reporters, lawyers, intellectuals, and members of CIA-financed organizations.

The committee is composed of the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the Active 20-30 Club, the Lions' Club, etc. Adela Mendoza, Kiwanis Club member and LA PRENSA newspaper public relations spokesman, coordinates this activity. This committee resembles the Namfrel Group which, with Radio Veritas and Manila Cardinal Jaime Sin, hastened the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos, engineered by Washington. Who do they think they are fooling?

PDC Flag Manufacturing Center Vandalized

PA2903014089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2321 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Interview with PDC member Edwin Cabrera by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 27 March—recorded]

[Text] [Cabrera] On the afternoon of 23 March, when we closed this center where we make party flags for nationwide distribution, we left the premises clean and there was no propaganda on the outside of our windows. On

the morning of 27 March, when we arrived to continue making PDC flags, we found that the center's exterior had been plastered with posters of a PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party] candidate.

To our surprise, when we entered the premises we found that the place had been turned completely upside down and had been littered with papers and trash. Two ladders, an electric saw, and a machine to make flags were stolen. Everything seems to indicate that people who worked during the weekend carried out additional work; specifically, acts of vandalism inside rented premises where the PDC manufactures its flags. This incident should be added to the incidents and threats that took place in Arraijan, as well as a series of incidents in the country's interior, such as the one involving threats in Santiago.

[Reporter] How did the vandals manage to enter the premises?

[Cabrera] There is every indication that they managed to get in through this door or through this window, which we found broken. Much to the annoyance of the PRD candidate, inside the premises we found his posters, which apparently were used to lift this roll-up door.

Argentina

Crespo Views Air Force Role in Elections

PY2903143889 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Today Air Force Chief Ernesto Crespo said that the Armed Forces must abstain from participating in politics. He said they must fulfill their mission and reasserted that the Air Force is not indispensable.

Crespo made these statements after meeting with President Alfonsin. Crespo bid Alfonsin farewell as the president and the defense minister are leaving on a tour through Spain, the FRG, and Israel in a few days. In a meeting with journalists, Crespo discussed the Armed Forces' role and political issues.

[Begin Crespo recording] I believe the Armed Forces should abstain from participating in politics. Some parties may intend to drag the Armed Forces into the political arena as the time for the elections draws near. But I believe that the Armed Forces should fulfill their mission and comply with the laws. They should refrain from commenting on whether they are being used. If they comply with the laws they will not be used. [end recording]

It is believed that Crespo made this statement in reference to a meeting that Justicialist party leaders have reportedly held with military officers who were active participants in the Holy Week, Monte Caceros, and Villa Martelli rebellions.

Asked whether the Armed Forces will safeguard the election results regardless of the outcome, Crespo said:

[Begin recording] The Armed Forces should not safeguard elections or anything of the sort. The Armed Forces should comply with the law. It is the law that establishes the procedures for electing the leaders of the new government. There is only one way to do this: to respect the will of the people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Joint Fishing Venture Launched With PRC

PY2903030589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1930 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Puerto Madryn, 27 Mar (DYN)—"Codepeca," the first joint fishing venture with the PRC in Latin America, began operating at Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province, at noon today. Justicialist Governor Nestor Perl attended the ceremony.

The event was organized to receive the first 2 fishing ships, out of a total of 11, that the company will operate with investments that total over $16 million.

Codepeca is a mixed enterprise comprising the Argentine firm "Harengus" and the "China National Fisheries Corporation" [preceding four words in English]. The firm will be dedicated to the commercial exploitation of the country's fishing resources and will operate with Argentine crews under the Argentine flag.

Two more ships will arrive in the next few days. Another two ships are expected before the end of the year.

The ceremony was also attended by Fishing Under Secretary Luis Jaimes; PRC ambassador to Argentina Li Guoxin; National Fishing Institute Director Antonio Malaret; International Economic Relations Secretary Miguel Amiune; Senators Faustino Mazzuco, Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, and Juan Trilla; and Zhang Xanxi, president of the Chinese firm, and Mario Lopez Olaciregui, president of Harengus.

Lopez stressed that the creation of Codepeca "shows the entrepreneurial capacity of Argentine and foreign businessmen who seek to introduce new technologies to consolidate the fishing sector and who obtain hard currency for the country through export increases."

Officials reported that "Harengus is a firm created with Argentine capital which started operating in 1978 catching, processing, canning, and freezing sea products from the south Atlantic. Ninety-five percent of the firm's production is made up of prawn, squid, and hake. During 1988 the firm exported a total of $19.1 million worth of fish."

The source said "China National Fisheries Corporation is one of the most important world fishing enterprises with capital of over $125 million. It generates employment for over 30,000 people and coordinates the work of 21 other firms."

The source added that "the two factory ships being incorporated by Codepeca were built at 'Dalian Fishing Vessel Shipyard' and were launched during President Raul Alfonsin's visit to the PRC."

The firm made the official announcement that "the ships 'Codepeca I' and 'Codepeca II' have an overall length of 37.6 meters, 995 horse powers, a 230 cubic meter freezing hold, a cooling capacity of 28 degrees below zero, a processing capacity of 10 tons a day, a 30-day autonomy, and Japanese-made digital equipment, and that they are technologically very advanced ships. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Ministry Official To Attend Atlanta Debt Talks

PY2803225789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2052 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA)—Raul Alconada Sempe, the Foreign Minister secretary for special affairs, today left for Atlanta, U.S.A., to represent President Raul Alfonsin at an international meeting on the foreign debt.

Alfonsin was to be represented by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at the Atlanta meeting, which is being organized by former Democratic President James Carter and former Republican President Gerald Ford. At the last minute, however, Caputo decided to stay in the country to participate in the Radical Civic Union electoral campaign.

Bomb Damages Union Premises in La Plata

PY2803133989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1316 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] La Plata, 28 Mar (NA)—A medium-sized bomb exploded early this morning at the headquarters of the Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA), where the White and Blue faction of the Construction Workers Union of the Argentine Republic (UOCRA) has set up its electoral office for the internal elections that conclude tomorrow. The explosion caused some damage, but there were no victims.

The device exploded at 0330 [0630 GMT] outside the union's headquarters, located on 45th Avenue, between 10th and 11th Streets, in the downtown area of this city. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The explosion damaged the walls, ceiling, and windows according to police sources.

April, May Basic Minimum Wage Established

PY2903015589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2001 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA)—During a meeting today at the Labor Ministry, a council charged with discussing the wage issue set the basic minimum wage with escalator clause for April and May 1989 at 2,400 australes.

Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, and Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) representatives participated in the meeting.

'Struggle Against AIDS' Commission Established

PY2803120889 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT Mar 89

[Text] Through Decree No 385 the government has established the National Commission for the Struggle Against AIDS [Comision Nacional de Lucha Contra el SIDA]. This commission will coordinate all private and public activities dealing with the struggle against AIDS. The government has established this commission because have there been more AIDS cases reported and because the disease has been detected in more regions of the country.

The commission will be headed by the health minister and will be made up of the health secretary and Health Ministry under secretaries.

Bolivia

Deputy Labels U.S. Presence in Viacha 'Illegal'

PY2903115789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0051 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 28 Mar (EFE)—Officials of Viacha, 32 km from La Paz, have confirmed that U.S. troops are in that region without congressional authorization. Today Deputy Walter Soriano Lea Plaza called this situation illegal.

Congress approved the government's request to allow 300 U.S. soldiers to come next April to level Pati-Pati Hill, Potosi Department, to build an airport. Soriano Lea Plaza said that the presence of the U.S. troops in other regions was not authorized.

The Catholic daily PRESENCIA today reported that U.S. soldiers provided medical aid to Viacha residents and to other people in La Paz Altiplano and delivered medicine on 14 and 21 March.

The illegal presence of U.S. troops in regions not authorized by Congress was denounced a few days ago by Deputy Fernando Cajias of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

Cajias reported that when he visited Viacha and Corocoro, 172 km from La Paz, he was able to verify the illegal presence of U.S. troops. He said he was surprised by that abnormal situation.

PRESENCIA published comments by several Viacha officials, who reported that the U.S. troops were in that town on 18 and 21 March.

Jose Olivares, Viacha interim mayor, said that the U.S. soldiers came after the I Army Corps command released a communique inviting the civilian population to receive free "general medical and dental attention and veterinary services."

Soriano Lea Plaza said that because of the congressional recess, a congressional committee is waiting for an official report from the executive branch and the Defense Ministry, stating whether U.S. troops are in towns close to La Paz.

If the report is true, Congress will study the case because the Constitution requires expressed congressional authorization to allow the presence of foreign troops in Bolivian territory, said Soriano Lea Plaza.

The Bolivian Labor Confederation today protested the presence of foreign troops, saying that "in addition to being an attack on Bolivia's sovereignty, it also creates uneasiness and fear during the current electoral process," leading up to the 7 May elections.

U.S. Technicians Viewed

PY2903021189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Information Minister Herman Antelo has said that the date of the arrival of U.S. military technicians that will work on Pati-Pati hill in Potosi has not been confirmed yet.

The minister said that the U.S. military technicians were scheduled to arrive in April after they finish their work in Costa Rica. Antelo said other countries are also interested in the technicians' cooperation, but they will come to Bolivia first.

[Begin Antelo recording] We expect them to come in April. We are not sure about the date of arrival of the first groups that will do the ground work at Pati-Pati hill. [end recording]

Antelo said that the government will report to the people, particularly in Potosi, when the group arrives and added that he is aware that people in Potosi are eager to receive them.

President Paz Invited To Attend Amazon Meeting

PY2803124589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0243 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (EFE)—Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro was today invited to attend the Amazon Pact meeting in Brasilia next May.

The invitation was sent by Brazilian President Jose Sarney via Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, secretary general of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

Flecha de Lima said that his country wants to promote the protection of the natural resources of the Amazon region. He added that the meeting will set the basis for a subregional policy.

He also expressed his government's confidence that Paz Estenssoro will attend the meeting because Bolivian officials have shown interest in preserving the zone, especially now that there is the possibility that this area may become a nuclear waste dump.

Flecha de Lima also said that he will travel to Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador to deliver the invitations to the presidents of those countries.

Brazil

Train, Bus Drivers Strike in Rio de Janeiro

PY2803112889 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Rio de Janeiro this morning had no trains and no buses. Thousands of bus drivers and train operators yesterday decided to begin an indefinite strike to demand a 30-percent salary increase and 6-hour work shifts.

The train operators are staging a 24-hour warning strike [as heard]. In addition to the salary increase, they also want 6-hour work shifts without a decrease in their monthly wages.

Army Tests Nuclear Emergency Evacuation Plan

PY2903015389 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Today the Army tested the first part of the emergency evacuation plan in Angra dos Reis, in Rio de Janeiro. The test has three stages and will last 3 days.

The Army conducted the first part of the emergency evacuation plan for a nuclear accident in Angra dos Reis nuclear plants. The text, which includes the evacuation of the area's population, will end on 30 March. The program has three stages: the first deals with concentrating the area's population in 16 strategic points; the second details the evacuation of the population from Angra and their transport to nuclear shelters; the third envisions the population's return and the end of the emergency.

Major Benji of the 1st Army Division heads the operation in which 900 men play the role of area inhabitants. The population does not participate in this test. In case of a true emergency evacuation the local prefecture would be responsible.

Angra's secretary of special events, (Evan Silva), said, however, that the prefecture is unable to pay the expenses for the population's evacuation:

[Begin recording] The prefecture can only alert the population to go to the points of concentration. The Army would then be called in to take over. We want to make clear that the prefecture will not assume the responsibility for the evacuation. We do not have the funds or the infrastructure needed for the job. [end recording]

The Army wants to assess the time spent in gathering the population and their transport by bus and train to the shelters. The most important part of the test, however, will come in the second half of the year when the population participates in the exercise.

* Engesa, Avibras Technical Problems Noted

33420038 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Feb 89 p 13

[Article by Eustaquio de Freitas: "Crisis Strikes War Materiel Industry"]

[Text] The enterprises which, for the past 10 years, have been solely responsible for the export of from 70 to 90 percent of the weapons produced in Brazil, opening extensive markets in 35 countries, began the year at the peak of a financial and administrative crisis that they will find difficult to overcome. After 3 consecutive years of international effort to sell its 40-ton Osorio tank, Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc] is accumulating

losses and cutting its personnal and production, after a golden period during which it was the largest seller of wheeled armored cars in the West. Its constant competitor, Avibras Aeroespacial, the largest exporter in this sector during 1987, currently has a debt of some $500 million (500 million new cruzados at the official exchange rate). This represents nearly four times last year's sales; and Avibras has also been forced to cut its labor force of 5,000 workers in half.

While the two enterprises have not revealed their boards' strategy for overcoming the crisis, both are confident that a slow, gradual recovery in the second half of this year might provide positive signs.

Raul Casanova, president of the Brazilian Association of Defense Materiel Industries, argues that "this is a localized, typical situation in these two companies, because they can overcome this crisis by signing just one large contract."

In fact, Engesa is still placing its hopes in an order for 265 Osorio tracked tanks from the Royal Army of Saudi Arabia, which will net it nearly $1 billion (1 billion new cruzados). But the transaction, initiated at the end of 1985, is still indefinite.

Similarly, Avibras is confident about a new contract with its leading client, Iraq, to which it hopes to sell another $400 million (400 million new cruzados) worth of Astros II-type artillery fire saturation systems. In addition, the company is discussing smaller sales to Oman, Bahrain, the Arab Emirates, Angola, and Nigeria, as well as Venezuela. However, according to the predictions of experts in the sector, only the Arab Emirates would be in a position to conclude the the contract, with purchases amounting to approximately $300 million (300 million new cruzados). Avibras is currently making large deliveries to only two clients: the Brazilian Army, which bought 13 FILA-type antiaircraft firing systems, and Saudi Arabia, which bought Astros II systems worth $400 million (400 million new cruzados).

Like Engesa, Avibras is facing a problem with its products. The Osorio has even won foreign competitions, but is undergoing pressure from all the traditional manufacturers of tracked tanks, in addition to being a multinational product, assembled from components imported from various sources. The Astros II, long tested in the Iran-Iraq war, still has problems in the rocket loading and in the cleaning of containers that are capable of affecting the weapon's range: a distance of between 30 and 60 km. There are constant internal problems with the lack of payment for equipment purchased by the Army, forcing the enterprise to increase its debt to the banking system.

Avibras has not confirmed this information, and will probably postpone until April the disclosure of the balance sheet for last year, which is traditionally published in March. After all, the company's billing will have declined from the $322 million (322 million new cruzados) accrued in 1987 to about $130 million (130 million new cruzados) last year; as of August it had not attained $90 million (90 million new cruzados). And the ludicrous profit of 1987, totaling 87.9 million cruzados, will now become a loss. Much of this was caused by circumstantial factors in the country, as well as by the company's peculiar situation on the arms market, according to former Avibras officials, who claim that there was also poor administration.

Within Avibras there are board members expressing regret at the delay with which measures were adopted to curb spending; the difficult situation was already becoming evident during the previous year.

With but few clients for its most expensive products, such as the Astros II, there were predictions that, as early as the first quarter of last year, the company would be faced with a high rate of idleness, caused by the conclusion of one contract and the delay in the signing of another. The personnel cuts were slight at the time, and there was even a rehiring of employees to provide for the contract signed with Saudi Arabia. The company has been slowly producing, accumulating an inventory worth about $100 million (100 million new cruzados), ready for delivery but with its shipment halted because of Iraq's failure to make payments.

Avibras Laid Off 1,900 in January Alone

During January, Avibras decided to cut personnel, laying off 1,900 employees at one time, with an 8-month delay, according to members of the factory's board of directors.

Felipe Cury, government relations advisor, remarks: "Cutting personnel at a factory such as ours is a very delicate matter, because this is highly specialized labor that is not available on the market."

And the board member proves this by submitting a list of 12 large industries in the country which sent inquiries to Avibras in order to obtain background and information on specialized employees. Cury reports that the company will now be left with personnel totaling approximately 2,500, and that new hiring may be undertaken soon.

He does not disclose the amount of the company's debt, nor what it is doing to surmount the crisis, other than the spending cuts. But he attempts to identify the source of the difficulties:

"During 1987 alone, we made sales amounting to $322 million (322 million new cruzados), and just from the exchange time lag we lost over $100 million (100 million new cruzados), because the official dollar in Brazil was 35 percent under its real value. Moreover, the spending increased exponentially, while receipts were subject to an exchange control exercised by the Central Bank.

"This situation was compounded by high financial costs, because Avibras has to resort to the banking system in the country and abroad to procure funds to maintain its activities. The company's balance sheet for 1987 was already showing the rise in the debt level, nearly five times that reached the year before in real terms. During the same period, the backlog of contracts increased only twofold."

Felipe Cury claims: "The situation has been controlled, because Avibras has always attempted to grow based on its own reality; and the loans made to cope with the crisis lie within financial parameters in keeping with our holdings and our unfilled orders."

According to the figures kept by the Sao Jose dos Campos Metalworkers Union, the war materiel sector is the one most responsible for the reduction in the job market in Vale do Paraiba. After all, during the past 13 months Avibras cut its personnel from 4,600 to 2,500 employees; Engesa made a cut from 2,600 to 1,400; Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] reduced its personnel from 10,700 to 10,100; Tecnasa laid off 102 of its 600 employees; and Tectran, a subsidiary of Avibras, cut its personnel to 650. The newest company in the sector, Orbita Sistemas Aeroespaciais [Orbita Aerospace Systems], formed by Engesa's association with Embraer, will not go beyond the drawing board: it began with 250 workers, and now has no more than 100, mostly in the project sector.

According to reports from the sector, the current tendency is to stabilize the rate of activities in the war materiel sector at a lower level, but one reasonable for the country's situation. The performance in 1987, which was responsible for exports totaling $600 million (600 million new cruzados) last year, should not, when the balance sheets are prepared, reach the bracket of $300 million (300 million new cruzados), even considering EMBRAER's good performance, with the sale of 48 Tucano airplanes and 10 Bandeirantes (not yet paid for by the Ministry of Aeronautics, and hence not counted) for maritime patrolling.

Chile

'United Left' Leader Almeyda Visits Moscow

PM2803103589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
24 Mar 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Visitor From Chile"]

[Text] Clodomiro Almeyda, secretary general of the Socialist Party of Chile and president of the "United Left" bloc, was on a working visit to the Soviet Union 20-23 March.

C. Almeyda was received by V.M. Falin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department. There were meetings and conversations in the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Latin American People and the USSR Academy of Sciences World Economics and International Relations Institute, Economics Institute, and State and Law Institute.

On behalf of Chile's left-wing forces, C. Almeyda expressed gratitude to the CPSU and all Soviet people for their invariable solidarity with the Chilean people's struggle for the restoration of democracy and freedom. C. Almeyda wished successful implementation of revolutionary restructuring in the USSR.

Holds News Conference

PY2203230689 Moscow in Spanish to Chile
2100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Expressing optimism about the progress of the struggle for democracy in Chile, Socialist Party Secretary General Clodomiro Almeyda has come out in favor of a single opposition candidate for the presidential elections in December of this year, of an agreement on the candidates for Congress, and of a program of government involving a united opposition. Speaking at a news conference in Moscow yesterday, Clodomiro Almeyda, who is also president of the United Left, stressed the active role of the left in current political developments and the central role of social mobilization in the struggle for democracy. That struggle will not end, he added, with the electoral process and the victory of the opposition; it will continue.

In "Escucha Chile" today, we will air some of Almeyda's most salient statements from yesterday's Moscow news conference.

[Begin Almeyda recording] I must tell you that I am optimistic about developments in Chile. I believe that maintaining the unity of all the democratic forces is of paramount importance. These forces demonstrated how much they can accomplish together, when last year they defeated Pinochet at the plebiscite. I believe that if we maintain that unity, we will also defeat the military regime in the elections scheduled for the end of this year. Despite the inequitable conditions under which the opposition and the government are struggling, the military regime can still be defeated. The same inequitable conditions prevailed before the plebiscite, and yet we won. If the opposition remains united, we will also win in this year's elections, despite all the difficulties.

To maintain that unity is not easy, because the spectrum of opposition forces is quite broad. It extends from the right, through the center-right and liberal sectors, to the Marxist-oriented left. It is not easy to reach a consensus of all those forces. Nevertheless, I believe that we will be able to reach that consensus, thanks to the will to remain united. We expect to run a single presidential candidate, at least in the first round. Since in Chile we may have runoff elections, as in France, the leftist forces do not want to compete individually in the first round; they want to go into it as part of a united opposition front, although I believe this is not a guarantee of victory. [end recording]

Then Almeyda noted: [Begin Almeyda recording] The plebiscite brought about an obvious change in the frame of mind of the Chilean people. Their morale was greatly enhanced; their hopes were awakened; their optimism was raised. The people have used the expanded freedom they gained after the plebiscite to express this new frame of mind. The political year in Chile began with a huge women's demonstration on 8 March, International Woman's Day. Such a demonstration had not be seen in a long time, and it is a good indication of the combative and united spirit of the Chilean people. This spirit will have to be expressed throughout this year, because the electoral campaign calls for a mass struggle to regain democracy. Democracy cannot be gained through votes alone; popular mobilization is also fundamental. The votes must reflect the level of popular unity and mobilization, which we have to promote throughout this year. To this task I will devote myself as soon as I return to my country in a few more days. [end recording]

Clodomiro Almeyda expressed his optimism, but at the same time, he sounded a warning about the obvious difficulties of the Chilean political process.

[Begin Almeyda recording] With the elections, we will take an important step toward democracy. I want to make something clear, however. Once the elections are held, we will not immediately have democracy. We will first need to dismantle the entire institutional apparatus, entire Constitution, and all the laws that hobble the Chilean people. Just by winning the elections, we will not undo all this. We will find strong resistance from conservative and reactionary sectors and their military allies. We will still have important obstacles to hurdle before we can fully restore in Chile a democracy without internal or external tutelage. We have made very decisive steps forward, and with unity and struggle, as we socialists say, we will take the final steps to achieve our objective. Meanwhile, we will continue to need international support and solidarity. We must above all keep in mind that we are still struggling for democracy and that we have not yet attained our objective. To attain it, we will still need the support of all the progressive forces of world. [end recording]

In the entire political process that is unfolding in Chile, the presence and activism of the left are decisive, Clodomiro Almeyda stressed in his statements to the press in Moscow.

[Begin Almeyda recording] The leftist forces of Chile are a decisive factor. A political democratic alliance cannot be conceived of in Chile without the participation of the left in the vanguard. I believe that in recent years the left has not been at its best; there have been problems among the leftist parties. These problems have in some degree hindered the role the leftist forces may have played. I am sure, however, that in the near future, in the next 1 or 2 years, based on the unity of leftist forces, which I deem necessary, and on a process of maturation and renewal, the left will regain its hegemonic role in Chilean society. Then our country should be able to advance toward socialism through democracy. [end recording]

This has been a summary of the news conference held yesterday at the headquarters of the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with Latin American Peoples by the president of the United Left, former foreign minister, and former Chilean vice president, Clodomiro Almeyda.

Real, Thorough Democratic System Desired

PY2803181189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Political commentary: Toward a Real and Thorough Democracy, by Father Riveros; all figures as heard]

[Text] The so-called democratic systems of government define themselves as the genuine representation of the will of the majority of the people. Protected by this definition they begin their term in office without considering the evident contradiction upon which they are based.

Some time ago, we mentioned the U.S. as an example. The U.S. Government harshly criticizes what happens in small countries but overlooks what happens in big countries, such as the USSR. They would never have banned all Soviet fruit imports because of two small grapes.

Though they claim to live in a democratic society, the U.S. people are not governed by the man for whom the majority of the peple voted. Quite paradoxically, the election of the U.S. President does not reflect the real will of the U.S. people. In a country with more than 200 million inhabitants, former President Reagan obtained less than 25 percent of the total vote. The same is true about the current U.S. President. If they had obtained more than 25 percent of the votes, they would have received more than 120 million votes. They did not receive, however, even 50 million votes.

Despite these figures, they are convinced that they live in a perfect democracy. They criticize and suffocate other countries at will, as they did Chile when they decided to throw into the sea millions and millions of Chilean grapes just because cyanide had been found in two small grapes. The immense quantity of safe grapes did not matter to them.

To implement this boycott against Chile, the U.S. Government did not need more than two small grapes, because they counted on the support of Chilean people whose party membership will soon be identified.

If we follow the U.S. example and agree to allow political parties that are not supported by the majority of the people to govern our nation, we will cause damage and losses to our country similar to, or worse than, those resulting from the recent clumsy U.S. decision to boycott our fruit.

We must take serious measures to prevent that. The most important measure to take now is to balance the number of people registered as members of political parties and the number of working independent people who do not belong to any party.

Although less than 15 percent of the voters are registered as members of the political parties, they are the ones who decide who will govern Chile. The remaining 75 percent or more of the voters merely watch the parties' propaganda and cast their votes in the ballot boxes without really expressing their will. The saddest part of the story, however, is that this is what they call a democratic system of government.

In my opinion, this is the aspect of our Constitution that needs most to be modified. New policies must establish that votes of party members be used only to elect party candidates and that the votes of the independent voters be used only to elect independent candidates. [sentence as heard]

Despite all the problems that measures like this could bring about, I believe that this policy would grant us a real and thorough democratic system of government. Thank you.

Note Proves CUT Wanted To Boycott Fruit, Wine
PY2803160989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] New evidence has come to light that involves the Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT) and the opposition sector in the boycott on Chilean fruit in the United States.

A CUT letter addressed to two Swedish workers' unions on 17 November 1988 thanks them for their support for a boycott on Chilean fruit and wine. The letter was sent by the CUT on 22 November 1988 to the Swedish unions. It is signed by Diego Olivares, the CUT interim chairman, and by Nicanor Araya, the secretary general. The two Swedish unions are members of the international (?SEOLS).

During the recent visit by (?SEOLS) Secretary General [name indistinct], the two CUT leaders confirmed the boycott against the Chilean products.

The aim of the boycott was to pressure the Chilean Government to pardon CUT leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez who have been tried for organizing a general strike. During this strike several violent acts took place.

In their letter, leaders Olivares and Araya tell the Swedish union members: Whenever it proves necessary, we will ask the (?SEOLS) to help us implement the boycott as part of an ever-increasing program of action and pressure.

(Emilio Maffeo), chairman of the Latin American Workers' Central (CLAT), has asserted that his organization has never supported any economic terrorist act against Chile or organized any boycott against that country. We have never even thought of it and we do not believe this is a positive tool to use in solving union movement problems, he said.

(Maffeo) said this when commenting on CUT Chairman Manuel Bustos' statement that, if the court did not revoke its decision to banish Arturo Martinez and himself, the CUT would resort to the international (?SEOLS) to obtain help in implementing a boycott on Chilean fruit and wine.

Interpol Asks Swiss Police To Capture Buschmann
PY2903020089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Interpol-Chile has asked the Swiss police to detain Sergio Buschmann, a dangerous Chilean terrorist leader, in view of reports that Buschmann, the leader of the Chilean terrorist group Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, has reportedly scheduled a news conference at a bar in Bern.

Buschmann was one of the agents charged with planning and implementing an extremist plan to illegally bring weapons into Chile to use them in large-scale confrontation.

On 12 August 1987, while the courts were investigating the case, this extremist escaped from the Valparaiso penitentiary. Buschmann has since appeared in various European cities, holding news conferences. The latest report on his whereabouts was released to the press by Investigative Police Deputy Inspector Pedro Estay, the chief of the national Interpol bureau in Chile.

Estay said that it has become known that Sergio Buschmann now intends to hold a news conference in the Swiss city of Bern: Therefore, Estay added, a petition has been made, asking the Swiss police to make an attempt to capture Buschmann.

Disturbances Broken Up Near Brazilian Embassy
PY2903002589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Groups of students and hooded individuals were involved in incidents near the intersection of Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue and Amunategui Street in downtown Santiago. The demonstrators painted Marxist political slogans on the facade of the Brazilian Embassy building, caused disturbances, and threw Molotov cocktails at buses. They also briefly blocked traffic on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, thus forcing the forces of order to take action.

The carabineros were forced to use a special unit equipped with tear gas and a water cannon to disperse the activists.

Police Arrest Two 'Terrorists,' Uncover Weapons
PY2803204889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Police have placed two men at the disposal of the courts on charges of belonging to a Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] armed group which had carried out several robberies in Greater Santiago.

The men are Christian Alejandro Vazquez Rubilar, alias Cesar, 20; and Pedro Alberto Ciudad Palma, alias Rogelio, 27. According to police, the men were found with a 9-mm (Chi) brand submachinegun with a completely loaded cartridge, a 38-mm Smith and Wesson revolver, another revolver without any visible brand name, 26 9-mm cartridges, 5 long 38-mm cartridges, 4 short 38-mm cartridges, and 3 revolvers loaded with blanks.

The two men have robbed offices, private homes, and taxi drivers. First they carefully studied their victims or the houses they would rob. Subversive propaganda and explosives were found in their hideouts. The police also found ski masks which the two thieves used in their robberies.

According to the police report, the two thieves were about to rob a private home when they were arrested.

Antarctic Convention on Mineral Resources Signed
PY2803164989 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Mar 89 p C-1

[Text] Chile yesterday signed the "Convention for the Regulation of Activities Resources" at a ceremony held in Wellington, New Zealand.

The document was signed by Chilean Ambassador Mario Barros on behalf of the government.

The Chilean ambassador also presented to the host country an interpretative declaration of the Chilean position regarding the international agreement.

A Foreign Ministry statement yesterday pointed out that by signing the document Chile reaffirms its sovereignty over its national Antarctic territory and its related rights, and its jurisdiction as a coastal country, the rights and jurisdiction of which are protected by Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty and Article IX of this convention.

The document also reaffirms the convention guidelines that strictly protect the ecosystem of the Antarctic and the region.

The document states that the Antarctic is closed for mineral exploitation, except when an agreement among all parties based on the essence of the ecological security authorizes the exploitation in a given area.

The Foreign Ministry adds that the declaration for the protection of the environment, both in the Antarctic and in our American territory, has been Chile's main concern.

It adds that the convention will prevent uncontrolled exploitation, and that it contains strict measures for ecological protection and responsibility for damages.

It states: "This priority program to protect the ecosystems is part of the overall Chilean Antarctic policy."

The document also claims that the Chilean delegation will reaffirm at the next meetings of the treaty, which will take place in Paris, the initiative proposed by Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz to adopt measures that will protect the Antarctic environment against all forms of human activity, in addition to expressing concern over recent events.

Counterfeit Ring Discovered; $100,000 Seized
PY2803194989 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 18 Mar 89 p 27

[Text] One of the largest counterfeit rings that have ever operated in Chile was discovered a few hours ago with the arrest of a businessman and an inspector of the investigative police for their alleged involvement in the case. Police also seized $100,000 in counterfeit money.

The arrests were made at the request of the 16th Santiago criminal court and were carried out by police agents from the OS [expansion unknown] 7 Carabineros unit. These arrests were made slightly over 2 months after a large amount of counterfeit dollars were noticed to be circulating in the Chilean black market.

Based on background information and preliminary investigations, at 1745 on 16 March Carabineros agents arrested Miguel Hernan Rivera Rojas, an inspector for Economic Crimes Brigade, BRIDEC; and 41-year-old Claudio Alberto Gonzalez Allu, a businessman. According to reports that the courts and the police have available, these two men had in their possession a suitcase which contained $100,000 of counterfeit money in $100, $50, and $20 bills.

These reports state that investigations carried out 2 months ago detected that a large amount of counterfeit money was circulating in the black market. The investigations also discovered that during the weekend one of those arrested had changed about $20,000 in counterfeit money.

The detainees, who were placed incommunicado after being questioned by the Santiago's 16th criminal court judge, refused to disclose from where the counterfeit bills came (it is believed they came from abroad). They also refused to give details about their operations. Therefore the police inspector, who is allegedly involved in the counterfeit operation, was placed at the disposal of the third police zone.

Details of the case were kept in complete secrecy yesterday so as not to undermine police work currently under way. It has been established that there are at least six other people involved in the operation, one of whom has been fully identified. The courts are now expected to issue the pertinent arrest warrant.

In this regard, the civilian police public relations department has issued a communique stating that in its permanent struggle against all crimes and in order to safeguard all citizens, they have decided to retire Police Inspector Miguel Rivera Rojas in view of his alleged involvement in a crime which violates police principles.

The communique also established that the investigative police will make every effort to combat any unlawful act.

Colombia

Barco, Perez Meet at Border; Discuss Cooperation

PA2803201189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1735 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Report by Jesus Garzon—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Venezuelan and Colombian Governments today named the members of the Permanent Reconciliation Commission [Comision Permanente de Conciliacion], which will examine the border dispute between both countries and make a decision on this issue. Former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez has been appointed to head the commission. Suarez arrived unexpectedly today in the city of Urena, where Presidents Virgilio Barco Vargas and Carlos Andres Perez met this morning. This is the presidents' second meeting this year.

Former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and Ecuadoran Foreign Affairs Minister Diego Cordovez will serve as our country's representatives on the so-called Permanent Reconciliation Commission, which was established in the 1939 Treaty for Nonaggression, Reconciliation, Arbitration, and Legal Agreement. Venezuela will be represented by Rene de Sola, president of the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice, and by former Mexican President Luis Echeverria. After the necessary discussions between the Colombian and Venezuelan presidents, both countries agreed to appoint former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez as the president and fifth member of the commission.

The presidents also appointed a group of high commissioners [grupo de altos comisionados] to compile the principal issues that both countries will discuss and to propose ways of dealing with and solving the dispute. Pedro Gomez Barrero and Carlos Holguin Holguin were appointed as Colombia's representatives, while Rafael Pizani and former Foreign Affairs Minister Isidro Morales Paul were appointed to represent Venezuela. It was previously announced that Ramon J. Velazquez will head the Venezuelan Commission for Border Issues, while its Colombian counterpart will be headed by Enrique Vargas Ramirez.

According to Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Londono Paredes, the commissions will begin working in the next few hours.

[Londono] "The heads of state will sign a declaration appointing the members of the various commissions that were agreed to at the Caracas meeting."

[Venezuelan Ambassador to Colombia Ildegar Perez] "This is truly one of the best moments in Venezuelan-Colombian relations."

President Barco was accompanied by Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo, Public Works and Transport Minister Priscila Ceballos, and National Defense Minister General Jaime Guerrero Paz.

[Barco] "Obviously, this is a very important step for both countries. The fact that both administrations and both countries can work together for the benefit of their countries is very important."

Aside from the aforementioned issues, the two countries will discuss possibile cooperation in energy and agricultural projects. The two presidents will sign agreements on these issues.

[Barco] "This meeting between the Colombian and Venezuelan presidents is a decisive step toward consolidating future cooperation and integration between our countries. This is our chance to make Simon Bolivar's ideals a reality. It is also our chance to give a specific response to our people's demands for change and prosperity. I am sure that we have never been closer to making this historic aspiration a reality."

[Perez] "I will repeat what I have said on other occasions—because I feel I am speaking on behalf of all of Latin America—1989 will be the year in which we find a clear and permanent solution to our problems with the debt and with our international economic relations."

M-19's Pizarro Leongomez Interview

PA2803001989 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0215 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Interview with 19 April Movement leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez by Alvaro Miguel Mina and Samuel Salazar Nieto in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, on the "Personality of the Week" program, hosted by Yamid Amat; individual reporters not identified; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Nine days ago, the Colombian Government officially authorized the creation of a neutral zone in the northeastern area of Cauca Department

where the 19 April Movement [M-19] could establish its headquarters and begin its demobilization as agreements unfold at the negotiationing table.

Santo Domingo and La Fonda, located in Tacuya Corregimiento, Toribio, are currently populated by local peasant subversives and central government representatives. Nearby, military forces stand guard at a respectable distance. One of the people who made this possible is top M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. We have thus chosen him as Caracol's personality of the week.

Although the M-19 has not been in the area for long, does Carlos Pizarro believe the process is going well, or are some elements missing?

[Pizarro] I believe this is a beginning; we began in January, and this problem has made steady, bold progress toward creating an opening for political (?opposition) in Colombia. The main reason for our presence in Santo Domingo is to create the conditions, physical space, and framework of guarantees to begin a concerted effort with the nation, government, parties, church, and other guerrilla organizations to find a negotiated solution to the nation's woes. I believe this is the essence of the process; depending on the clarity with which we approach it and the sincerity with which we approach the dialogues, we can progress more rapidly toward a new nation where we can all live through the full use of our civic rights.

[Reporter] It has been said in some sectors that Peace Village [Ciudadela de la Paz—area set aside for M-19 that is off limits to Armed Forces] is an independent republic. Others say the objective sought here is beyond your reach. Is this to be equated with Macondo [fictitious city mentioned in Gabriel Garcia Marquez' novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude"]

[Pizarro] I think everything in Colombia is something of a Macondo, but this place is neither a reproduction of Macondo nor an independent republic. This does not represent the construction of a new Casa Verde [name given to M-19's headquarters] nor the creation of persons such as those who have appeared in a considerable part of the nation's history. [sentence as heard] We are living here in a transition stage. We do not intend to stay here for the rest of our lives nor to build an enclosure where others cannot enter. On the contrary, we want a small, open society to exist here, where all of us who have anything to do with a political solution in Colombia can do it in peace, trust, and hope.

[Reporter] Are you afraid something in the process might fail? What would happen in such an event?

[Pizarro] I think we cannot keep worrying indefinitely about the obstacles some people raise against the process and the bad omens some people predict. We must assume the full responsibility of constructing a more worthy Colombia, which requires much optimism by the nation. We are sure there is presently a very positive climate for a definitive political solution. We have lived through a very complex period in Colombia. We know the huge price we Colombians will have to pay for violence if we do not check it in time. The opportunity to stop violence is in our hands, and we cannot afford to relinquish or disregard this chance. All involved parties must demonstrate political honesty and a great sense of responsibility regarding future Colombian generations.

[Reporter] A new stage has been entered into. Do you assume the government is being sincere?

[Pizarro] I think the country is living in a special time. We will try to define it in a short sentence. We think this is not the right time for shooting or violence, but a time to use our intelligence. We hope the Colombian people's intelligence can serve the cause of peace so we, the people, can be certain that we can construct an acceptable society. We, the Colombian guerrilla movement, the government, the Patriotic Union [UP], the parties, and the church are responsible for making this effort for peace succeed. This is an appeal for intelligence and political generosity, which can represent a giant step toward a better future.

[Reporter] You have said the door is open for the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] to join the process. Do you think the Colombian insurgent movements' unity and the peace efforts your group advocates would be jeopardized if some or all of the rebel groups reject this opportunity?

[Pizarro] I think all of us Colombians share in the effort to find a political solution. All of the country's forces must work based on all the power factors in Colombia. I think the CNG is not jeopardizing unity because we were not organized simply to defend our unity as guerrillas; we were organized to defend national unity, obtain political openings for Colombia's democracy, and create a more just society. As a result, the country's fate is at stake, not the fate of armed men. This process entails greater political responsibility and is aimed at having the guerrilla movement lead the nation in representing the country's desires. The Armed Forces, the government, and the parties share in this responsibility. We all must rise above our idiosyncrasies and reach the stature the country demands. This is a demand for the CNG and all the country's forces. Whoever avoids this responsibility will sentence himself to be left behind, politically speaking.

[Reporter] Have there been any contacts with the leaders of other insurgent groups on this new course your group has set?

[Pizarro] Yes, we have gotten in touch with the CNG. We believe the country will receive the CNG reply in a few days. We are pleased to have listened to the statements of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

[FARC]. We regard the unilateral cease-fire decreed by FARC as very positive, because it allows for the detente necessary to move toward a political dialogue.

I think this is a good step. Along those lines, I think the CNG will show an equally positive attitude, even though its attitude may differ slightly in terms of nuances and specific procedures.

[Reporter] Have there been any conversations with Jacobo Arenas?

[Pizarro] Our talks with Jacobo Arenas have been systematic and continuous. We are certain that we will be able to include FARC in our efforts toward achieving peace in Colombia, once the progress and vitality of this process becomes evident.

[Reporter] It is being said that the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] and the Army of National Liberation [ELN] are preparing a document that is positive in this regard.

[Pizarro] When we spoke to Jacobo yesterday, he mentioned various points in the EPL-ELN document that we consider important, such as the declaration of a unilateral cease-fire. We are waiting for the communique to be released to provide more detailed comments.

[Reporter] FARC has proposed forming a commission of notables to verify the guerrillas are indeed making efforts toward peace in good faith. What is the M-19's position regarding the FARC initiative?

[Pizarro] A few days ago, we wrote these notables a letter, telling them we thought it was excellent that such outstanding Colombians as former Presidents Lopez and Misael Pastrana, National Association of Industrialists President Fabio Echeverri, and Cardinal Revollo would work toward including all of the forces in conflict in this process. We think that if they succeed in establishing a single path toward peace, the Colombian people would have a magnificent opportunity to work together to build a new model of society that Colombia and Colombia's future demands.

[Reporter] A new stage has already begun in the peace process. You have now appointed several spokesmen to represent you at the working roundtables, which will be held with other groups in the country to seek solutions to the nation's problems. Several questions come to mind regarding this development. First, will this end up being just another dialogue?

[Pizarro] I think conditions in Colombia are such that this needs to be more than yet another dialogue. Conditions in Colombia demand that we achieve results, specific commitments, and stable pacts. Thus we will not have to continue our search for peace by living in a labyrinth, as we have for several years. I think the right conditions exist for us to make progress during these working roundtables toward a renewed concerted effort in Colombian policy and society. We must seriously amend the focal points of conflict in Colombia. I think these roundtables will give us the opportunity of clearly expressing our points of view and of listening to proposals, counterproposals, and ideas from other fellow Colombians.

[Reporter] Do you think there are enough guarantees for the protection of the lives of the 13 M-19 members who will participate in these roundtables, in view of the recent assassinations of leftist activists with impunity?

[Pizarro] I think we have to discuss this issue at the roundtable. In the meeting with government officials in Mexico, we talked about the impunity problem and the problem of justice in Colombia. It was a main issue, and it should be a main topic of discussion at the roundtable. We need a fundamental reorganization in the institutions in charge of the handling of public order in Colombia. I am talking about the problem of impunity and justice. I am talking about the problem of justice in Colombia. I am talking about the policy of national security or internal security, which is not a problem of the Colombian military; it is a problem of all Colombians.

[Reporter] There are those who believe the M-19 was defeated militarily and that, because of this, you are now seeking a political solution. What is your answer to those who promote this theory?

[Pizarro] There is much speculation in Colombia over the relative strength of the guerrilla groups and over the influence of armed political groups. I really believe those discussions are totally useless. At this moment, one can feel the influence of the M-19—just to use one example—on everything to do with national politics. I believe that if the M-19 did not exist, Colombia would be very unstable. For many years the M-19 has left its mark on Colombian history. I believe we are facing a new challenge: finding peace. This is a national challenge, and it includes all of us. All forces must now contribute toward agreements and solutions. I believe this is the great challenge. The M-19 will be fighting until peace is achieved in Colombia. Peace is the main wish of all Colombians, and there is a possibility of peace in the future. I believe we are on the right track, and that is what defines an organization's strength or durability.

[Reporter] Getting back to the topic of the roundtables, what procedures will be followed there, and what initial proposals will the M-19 make?

[Pizarro] I believe the first thing we should decide is who should really be at the roundtable. We believe the roundtable is an instrument of the country—the roundtable is not an instrument of the government, the M-19, or political parties. The roundtable is an instrument of national participation. The country cannot put itself in the position of having to ask permission to contribute to peace. The right scenario and instruments must be

created. In addition, we must create opportunities for all to participate in the peace process and create mechanisms for overseeing the peace process.

Who can tell Colombian trade unions, the National Association of Industrialists, the National Federation of Businessmen, or the National Association of Financial Institutions that they have nothing to do with the Colombian peace process? Peace is everyone's business—even trade unions and peasants' movements. The roundtables are instruments of the Colombian nation, and the groups I just mentioned can help make the changes needed to bring peace closer.

What are we going to discuss? I believe each organization, each labor force, and each social organization will outline their understanding of a broad pact that includes all this country's forces. We will propose an in-depth correction to the handling of Colombia's public order that restores in this country the participation of all the social forces in designing this policy. We should reach a national mandate regarding public order that obligates every Colombian and offers guarantees to every Colombian. We should not have an anarchic situation in the country where half the population is armed and the other half is unarmed; we should define the exact conditions under which we may talk of a single policy on weapons in Colombia.

We want the population to be disarmed. We do not want armed paramilitary groups, groups of drug traffickers, self-defense groups, or even guerrilla groups. Instead, we should draft a new pact among all of us to work out who should bear arms in Colombia. This is part of what we are going to discuss.

We also will propose a correction to the Colombian economic model; a correction that will promote broader participation in planning the Colombian economy, and not simply leave the plans in the hands of the Colombian Government. Instead, the trade unions, the agrarian movement, the political parties, and the citizens in general should participate in economic planning. I think we must create a national fund with which we can build a new economy and take care of the Colombian people's urgent needs—housing, land, and health.

There has been a lot of talk about a war tax in Colombia. We enthusiastically listened to the country's business associations. We listened to the National Federation of Businessmen [FENALCO] and National Industrialists Association [ANDI] talk about their willingness to pay a war tax in Colombia to guarantee public order in Colombia. We think that now, rather than campaign for a war tax, we need a campaign for a peace tax in Colombia.

It would be a tax for those who have more resources. Through those resources, they would help sow social justice and development in Colombia—which are, among other things, the language of peace.

We must rectify our present economic model. We are going to [words indistinct] specific (?forces). We also need changes and rectifications in the Colombian political model; changes and rectifications to guarantee the opposition's existence and to ensure that new political forces will be able to participate in the country's life with more fairness; changes and rectifications to guarantee to future Colombians—to those who will be members of the traditional parties and those who will participate in politics from other groups—the possibility to seek power and build a social and political reality based on their rights as citizens. We are touching on these subjects very lightly, but we do need thorough changes that must be agreed upon and implemented. They must become a mandate for this government, the parties, and the forces that made a commitment in this pact, but they must also become a mandate for the government that will take office next year. It would be sad if the M-19 were to make progress in a pact that would lead to its demobilization in this administration and then have to take up weapons again in the next government because the next president may not have a clear commitment for peace.

We think there must be an article in the new constitution compelling the new administration to comply with what is agreed upon in this peace process we are beginning.

[Reporter] Could you tell us if it has been fully decided who will participate in the working roundtable?

[Pizarro] I will explain the essence and philosophy of the roundtable. Those of us who met at the opening of the roundtable session feel we must expand the number of participants. We cannot monopolize peace. This cannot be done by the parties, the M-19, or the government. Therefore, the second Tolima declaration brought up the need to open multiple mechanisms for participation so the nation can participate in the suggestion of alternatives for solutions demanded by the Colombian nation. We reached an agreement with the government and must come up with the most realistic, dynamic, and efficient mechanisms so we will not start speech contests among us but will basically agree to make commitments in this country.

We must not—nobody would understand it....[rephrases] The government and the M-19 must not close the doors to the citizens' participation and feel the decision to achieve peace in Colombia rests in the hands of the government and the M-19.

With the government, we have been able to advance on the need to give participation to all the nation. How should this be done? It is a challenge to the intelligence of the government, the M-19, the political parties, and all the Colombian guerrilla movements.

We have the obligation to build peace; it must feel like something inherent to Colombians, which involves a process of consultation and work to promote collective awareness.

[Reporter] Regarding drug traffickers, is it advisable to allow them to participate? What do you think the [word indistinct] should be?

[Pizarro] The nation must face the drug-trafficking problem, which will be one of the topics of discussion at the [words indistinct] in the future in this country. I think it is rash to mention the presence of the drug-trafficking sector within this dialogue. But I do think it is urgent for the nation to discuss drug trafficking responsibly and seriously and seek a solution—a solution that must be possible and realistic.

[Reporter] You confirmed to us a week ago that you are talking to the military for the first time. Have you had any contacts with any specific top command? Which one?

[Pizarro] I think this problem has a very special feature. That feature is the Colombian Armed Forces' calm and open attitude regarding the peace process. I am sure this is a new element that reflects the current period of peace. We have had talks, through our representatives, with generals, captains, majors, and colonels. A bridge has been built between the Colombian military and the M-19. We hope a bridge has been built between the military and the nation as a whole. We know the Armed Forces have an important role to play at this time of emergency in the country.

Emergencies require the participation of the nation as a whole. The Armed Forces have so far acted with calmness and with a positive attitude. We listened to the statement by the defense minister at the Cali meeting that the Armed Forces are ready to participate in this peace process. Therefore, we hope the Armed Forces gradually participate more in this process. We hope their presence will reassure Colombians that we are indeed in a process of making serious corrections for the sake of a much more democratic and a much more integrated nation and for the sake of the united Colombia that Simon Bolivar wanted.

[Reporter] Will the other M-19 fronts, which are operating in other areas of the country, go to the Peace Village?

[Pizarro] We have not discussed that. We have dealt with this process step by step. We think we must build trust from within. We pledged that the M-19 general command would stay in one area of the country, with guarantees it could undertake political actions. So far, that pledge has been kept. I am sure that based on the success of this first step, we will be able to adopt similar steps with other M-19 forces or other mechanisms to keep the process going and reach the final goal. That sincere purpose is what encourages us.

[Reporter] You mean the other fronts are not getting the same treatment?

[Pizarro] Not at this time. However, all M-19 members are behaving in accordance with the agreements, which permits reaching greater detente. I also think the Armed Forces' calm attitude encourages the M-19's actions. [11-minute commercial break]

[Reporter] Regarding relations with the country's other political groups, some people feel these groups are vying to lead this process. I mean the Liberal Party and the government want to lead it. Then the Social Conservative Party discussed the matter. How do you view this?

[Pizarro] We think the most positive thing is that they are vying to lead the peace process. Vying to lead a war would be a very serious matter. I think all the political groups really want to get to the heart of the matter and achieve as much as they can from this process. I think this is legitimate. I think it is positive that we are experiencing this in Colombia.

Of course, if we succeed in getting the ruling Liberal Party and the Social Conservative Party.... [changes thought] If all the guerrilla movements vie among themselves and come up with the best proposals to assure peace for the country, we will be really meeting the country's current needs. We think it would be excellent for the country if relations between the government and the Social Conservative Party improve. Likewise, we should rebuild all the bridges that were destroyed to be able to go from one battlefield to another and feel it is truly possible for all of us to establish a timetable for peace—but not those incomplete timetables made by forces that do not communicate with each other.

[Reporter] Changing the subject and going back 3 or 4 years, what did the M-19 learn from the takeover of the justice palace? Was it a mistake? Was the shedding of Colombian blood worthwhile?

[Pizarro] I believe we have a process that confirms the maturity achieved during a highly conflictive period—the dialogue with Belisario Betancur—and we continue to make progress.

M-19 spokesmen recently met with President Belisario Betancur, at my instruction, and said the events at the justice palace should become part of our history, meaning that historians should judge the incident and ascertain everyone's responsibility for that dramatic incident.

The positive thing is that we are again talking—talking and betting on Colombia's future, not its past—despite Colombia's many problems.

[Reporter] However, there is talk about the justice palace incident and there will always be talk about the justice palace incident. In other words, can you specifically tell us your views on that incident—meaning the M-19's views—instead of leaving it to the historians?

[Pizarro] We went to the justice palace seeking the truth. We were not looking for a gain for the M-19, and we were not looking for the spoils of war. We simply sought the truth.

The M-19 went to the justice palace and defended the truth and honesty with which the M-19 had acted throughout the Belisario Betancur administration. We are certain that we acted in good faith; we sought an honest trial at the Supreme Court of Justice. Unfortunately, that was impossible in those days.

[Reporter] It was never considered a mistake?

[Pizarro] We think the costs for Colombia were extremely high, but we believe our task now is to build a society where this type of event is not a daily occurrence.

We think an agreement among everyone is preferable to the violent demands of sectors which, in a certain way, have the right to be part of the nation's life yet are excluded.

[Reporter] You now have a neutral zone for your command post and you can move freely about the country. Carlos Pizarro is now being tried by the authorities for various political crimes. How do you think this situation should be handled at the negotiating table?

[Pizarro] I never demanded personal favors; I always sought treatment for the country. I believe Colombia requires a different treatment; that is why we talk about basic rectifications in three specific areas: public order; current economic guidelines; and key political rectifications that allow a broader and much more participatory, democratic framework.

We are trying to attain our goals according to those guidelines. I think we will be able to talk about what would amount to personal treatment for the M-19 and the M-19 commander if we can continue to make progress on this.

We are looking for political openings and the opportunity to become part of a society in which everyone can be a first-class Colombian. We do not want a clandestine democracy or a nation without institutions. We want a nation, with institutions, that includes everyone, and for which everyone will struggle and feel a responsibility to defend it because it is the result of a mutual agreement—a national agreement.

[Reporter] Once the roundtables bear fruit, you will have to leave. What do you think the result of that will be?

[Pizarro] I believe that to the extent that we contribute to the process, the process needs greater contributions and that we have more things to tell the country, and to the extent that the country demands more proposals and greater participation from us, we will be there, discussing all issues with the roundtable participants. The roundtables are a means of reaching a political solution and will allow Carlos Pizarro and other M-19 members to fully exercise their rights and to give the country all that we can give after having struggled very hard to turn Colombia into a more democratic society.

[Reporter] You have given assurances that right now the M-19 does not have any captives under its power. How is the guerrilla movement surviving? Is the government contributing to the support of the guerrilla movement here at Peace Village?

[Pizarro] No, the government is not making any contributions right now. However, it could support us in the future. As I told you, the M-19 is not settling down here in Peace Village. We are building—let us say—an open village for peace in Colombia, to which we all must contribute. We have received some support. For example, thanks to the efforts of Senator Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez, the National Enterprise for Telecommunications extended a telephone line to this area. That helped the Santo Domingo community, not just the M-19.

We talked with the governor about building a road to Santo Domingo, which would be an asset to the community. We are not seeking support for the M-19, but for the community. The M-19, as with any other organization, must obtain resources from all those groups that believe that the M-19's political agenda, ideology, and doctrine must play an active, substantive, and dynamic role in society.

[Reporter] Let us talk a little about Carlos Pizarro, the man. What is the most severe blow you have suffered during your life as a guerrilla fighter?

[Pizarro] I have had ups and downs as a guerrilla fighter. I was arrested when I began my career as a guerrilla fighter in the mountains. That was undoubtedly a very severe blow. I spent 3 years in prison because of my lack of experience in rural guerrilla life. I believe that most of the operations under my command have been successful since then. The death of friends has been the hardest blow in my life. During this entire process, we have experienced the loss of friends, of men who were important to me, to the M-19, and to the country. Among those men are Jaime Bateman, Alvaro Fayad, Ivan Marino Ospina, Carlos Soledo Plata, and other very important M-19 leaders.

I believe that their loss is not only painful for the M-19 and for me, but also for the country. All of them would have had a lot to offer the country today. I also think that they helped make our present situation possible. We hope to be worthy descendants of those great Colombians.

[Reporter] Do you believe that it was worthwhile to dedicate your life to the armed struggle and to play a leading role in the escalation of violence in the country over the last few years?

[Pizarro] I believe it was worthwhile to have struggled against the inertia of the national front and against its political, economic, and ideological exclusivity. The national front comprised a whole generation of liberal and conservative party members. Today there is a new generation of young Colombians. That generation is formed by 20-, 30-, and 40-year old men, who are delivering a much more promising future for Colombia. Now not only the glorious, old Colombians are engaged in politics. Today there are important figures within the Liberal Party such as Ernesto Samper and Mauricio Serpa Uribe. There are Conservative Party figures such as Alvaro Leyva Duran and Rodrigo Marin. In other words, there is a new, active generation. The Colombian Left has leaders such as Bernardo Jaramillo.

I believe that the Colombian guerrilla movement has yet to produce leaders who have proven their mettle in prolonged struggles marked by human and political generosity. We are living with a new generation that grew up during difficult times, but which is undoubtedly delivering a much more promising future for Colombia. There are now more people with the ability to make decisions, to participate, and who want to build a better, kinder, and more livable Colombia through more active political participation.

[Reporter] Would you not like to be within that group you mentioned, fighting with the same weapons that they are using right now and on equal terms?

[Pizarro] I think that the conditions must be universally applicable and consistent so that Colombians can freely find new political solutions. Our political agenda looks toward the 21st century. I believe that the M-19 has the virtue of giving Colombians the possibility of having a new political future different than the one in the past.

[Reporter] There is talk about new political options. You talk about a new generation. You mentioned Senator Ernesto Samper Pizano. Do you think that he would make a good presidential candidate?

[Pizarro] I think that the generation that is now beginning to fill the most important position in Colombian society is a generation that is more aware of today's Colombia. It is a generation that is more open-minded toward dialogue and to finding a cause that everyone can take to, even the privileged class. I believe that this new generation has a lot to accomplish, and this does not only apply to Ernesto; this is a generation that goes beyond Ernesto. However, I think that Ernesto can do a lot for this country. I am sure that in the future we will have many contacts with him and with this generation to which I belong.

[Reporter] Besides wanting Colombians to live in peace, what is your greatest hope?

[Pizarro] To create a political solution. That is a challenge I have had to face in the M-19. I think that we now have a chance to create this solution. When the late M-19 leader Jaime Bateman convoked the meeting in Panama, the country was not yet mature enough for that proposal. Had it been receptive to that proposal, it would have saved Colombia years of struggle and sacrifice.

We are going through a process which was started by Belisario Betancur and in which Alvaro Fayad played a very prominent role. However, this process was not consolidated. I think that Betancur was alone in this process. The M-19 was permanently harassed during that process. We now count on the active and forthright contributions of the entire nation.

I believe that my greatest challenge is to be able to give to Colombians a true and lasting political solution, a solution that will give today's Colombia the certainty that the new millennium will bring democracy and brotherhood to Colombia. This would be a dream come true for me. Great risks are involved, but I feel committed to the country's future.

[Reporter] How do you view the dialogue carried out by the previous administration, and what lessons did you learn from it?

[Pizarro] The first lesson we learned was that there must be a clear and firm political willingness to create new political, economic, and social realities. This political willingness must not be limited to a president or a guerrilla group; this political willingness must extend throughout the entire nation. Therefore if we refer to a responsibility to peace, we refer to everyone's responsibility. It is the responsibility of the media. The media is responsible for creating new ways to instruct journalists to become specialists in peace.

Those who have to deal with the issue of peace must not do so just because it is a novelty. Life is not a soap opera. One can say that this is an old story. This is not an issue of doves or peace symbols; this is a matter of building peace intelligently. We need to have Colombian journalists specialize in peace. We also need to make Colombians experts on how to build peace. We do not need to make them experts on how we talk about peace or how to gain advantages through peace, but they should be experts on how to build a more genuine peace.

This is the responsibility of today's Colombian political class, the church, and the guerrilla movement. We cannot keep tampering with peace because that means tampering with the destiny of Colombians and that means tampering with one's own destiny.

If this process fails, I am certain that civil rights will become (?limited) for all Colombians. I think that would imply a deterioration of the role of Colombian journalists in this country. Colombian journalists either would have to have no familiarity with the war experience or

they would have to take part in it. However, today's journalist has the opportunity to take part in and to build peace. Just as journalists have to do this, so does the church, the business associations, the workers, the peasants, and the guerrilla movement. We are going through the last stage in the peace process, but this stage can be very gratifying if we are able to succeed in this peace challenge. This is a challenge for all, not only for the M-19 commander.

[Reporter] What would you say to those who do not believe that we are going through the last stage in the peace process?

[Pizarro] The most senseless war is the war that could have been avoided and is not because of sectarianism, stubbornness, or cowardliness. I think that we can build a Colombia of brotherhood. I believe that a political solution—which is the order of the day—can be built by many hands and that it would be stupid and criminal to continue a war when we can begin to build peace, brick by brick, with generosity, intelligence, and political willingness.

[Reporter] Thank you, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, for accepting this Caracol visit in Santo Domingo.

* Liberals View Presidential Selection Process

33480133 Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
28 Feb 89 pp 22-25

[Text] The fairy tale did not last long. The fairy godmother's magic wand had succeeded in getting all of the knights to agree on the thorniest of issues: succession to the throne. A happy ending was anticipated as a prince surrounded by his entire people would be anointed by the knights. Yet the knights did not remain seated long at the round table. Half of them decided to withdraw, ignoring the counsel of the fairy godmother, and once again dark clouds filled the skies over the kingdom.

This mythical account could well serve to relate what happened to the Liberal Party last week. What former President Julio Cesar Turbay's magic wand had achieved was a consensus that a consultation with the people would be the way to choose the party's candidate and guarantee unity for the 1990 elections. And what half of the Liberal legislators began thinking was that such a consultation, as it had been proposed, was not as advisable as had been initially thought.

The consultation, which all politicians are talking about and which very few Colombians understand, is actually a very simple mechanism. It merely consists of using the March 1990 congressional elections, which must be held 2 ½ months before the presidential election, as a way for Liberals to express their preferences among the various candidates for president. Operationally speaking, Liberal voters would have the option of adding to the ballot for local office another with the name of the candidate whom they support. If one of the presidential hopefuls gets half of these ballots, he will automatically become the party's single candidate. Otherwise, a subsequent convention would be empowered to choose the candidate from among the hopefuls who have registered for the consultation or, if none of them obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, to choose any other Liberal leader in a second round.

At first glance the mechanism seemed very attractive. It was fair, it was democratic and it represented an insurance policy against a split, inasmuch as New Liberalism had agreed to rejoin the party on these conditions. It had been accepted as the key point in the unity accord between Luis Carlos Galan and the then president of the Liberal Directorate, Hernando Duran Dussan, in May 1988. Later, the Cartagena Convention had unanimously ratified it and had given the single chief, former President Turbay, a mandate to negotiate its implementation.

The First Steps

No sooner had the ink on the agreement dried than the signers began raising all sorts of objections, which could be summarized thus:

- The consultation is an instrument of divisiveness that sets Liberals at odds with each other at all levels. This means that the party could become fragmented, because in each municipality there could be as many candidates for mayor as presidential hopefuls.
- There is not enough time between the legislative and presidential elections to heal the wounds, assemble the convention, choose the candidate and convince voters to elect him president.

Citing these two points, Liberal legislators coordinated by Santander Senator Eduardo Mestre and Cali Representative Rodrigo Garavito steadily closed ranks until nearly half of them said that the mechanisms of the consultation had to be dismantled or at least revised. The core around which the members of the anti-consultation band gathered was called the "group of the comptrollership," which by the end of the week and with the support of the Duran people managed to bring together 73 of the 177 legislators to unfurl the banner of rebellion. On the other side, that is to say, those in favor of the consultation and its current ground rules, a group was formed that would have been unthinkable less than a year ago: Luis Carlos Galan, Ernesto Samper and Alberto Santofimio, as presidential hopefuls, and former President Turbay as the head of the party and guarantor of the accords that had led to the consultation.

The two lineups would lead one to believe that the arguments against the consultation are without foundation. If it is true that the mechanism could lead Liberalism to defeat, both at the national and municipal level, why are individuals as interested in victory as three presidential hopefuls and former President Turbay, a sly old party fox whose responsibility is to lead it to victory,

supporting it? It could also be argued that what the party needs most to win is unity and that the consultation was approved precisely to guarantee it. A 6-week presidential campaign may not be much time, but it gives Liberalism a better chance to win with a single candidate than do 6 months with two or more candidates, which is what presumably could happen if the consultation is scrapped.

The Specter of Galan

A no less reasonable explanation, but one that none of the opponents of the consultation have expressed publicly, is that perhaps under these rules Galan has a chance. The consultation was originally approved so that Galan would join the party but not that so that he would be the 1990 candidate. This is why the 50 percent minimum was established, so that it would be almost impossible for any of the five or six candidates to score an automatic victory in the consultation. This requirement not having been met, the decision would be up to a convention, at which Galan could hardly command a majority.

The tradition in Colombia since the San Carlos Consensus of 1978 is that what is called a consultation with the people is more of a consultation than it is with the people. The reason is that with the selection of the candidate linked to the legislative elections, the party machine and the electoral barons eventually wind up deciding whom their troops vote for.

The Cartagena convention delegates thought that the tradition would hold under the new mechanism that had been approved. But as the ground rules were gradually defined, a few things put them on notice. In the first place, Galan against the whole united party establishment, as happened in 1982 and 1986, is one thing; but Galan amid a fragmented establishment with Duran, Samper, Santofimio, Holmes Trujillo, etc as candidates, is a different matter indeed. Second, the innovation of the separate ballot suggests that although the congressional vote is a captive one, an independent vote that was not present in previous consultations will be added in. Moreover, the polls show that the electorate prefers Galan overwhelmingly. Although the outcome of the legislative elections does not depend on polls but on how the local bosses move their pieces, several of these bosses could feel attracted to the drawing power that a presidential hopeful with more than 60 percent support could eventually have. This is especially true if we take into account the recent battle for mayor of Bogota in 1988 between Juan Martin Caicedo and Carlos Ossa, which showed that votes cannot be guaranteed as much as had been thought.

Owing to all of these factors, Galan's bid for the nomination turned from symbolic to real, and in just 4 weeks his legislative strength rose from his 17 original congressmen to 30-odd. This number did not yet represent a threat, but the trend had to be reversed as soon as possible to prevent the fragmentation of the Liberal legislative bloc, which as long as it remains mostly a bloc will be able to impose anyone it wants.

Appointment at Michelangelo

Since the course of events was demonstrating that the legislative bloc could not remain united around any of the presidential hopefuls, the decision was made to bring it together around a cause: the machine ought to retain decisive power when the time comes to choose the candidate. To begin with, the innovation that was threatening that power, the consultation with the people, had to be opposed. And that was what happened on Thursday of last week, when 60 lawmakers met at Michelangelo, a discotheque in the northern section of Bogota, after which hints of a split were suggested.

Comptroller Rodolfo Gonzalez was behind what the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR described as a "retreat," and he showed up at noon for the close of the gathering. His presence sealed his powerful legislative group's opposition to the consultation. Joining them were heavyweights like Senators Bernardo Guerra and Gustavo Balcazar, thus creating a force that although it may not yet be decisive, does have what could be called veto power.

Although the group's cause is opposition to the established decisionmaking arrangement, not any one candidate, such a procession cannot long continue without its saint. And Hernando Duran Dussan is the big beneficiary. After a quick takeoff, his campaign for the nomination had been languishing. As one more candidate in the midst of a fragmented party establishment, his time did not seem to be coming.

The meeting at Michelangelo has changed all that. Although there was no explicit support for Duran, it is obvious that the powerful group could wind up backing him. This could stem as much from a process of conviction as from a process of elimination. It is absolutely impossible for that group to support Galan. Samper, who has the greatest individual strength at the convention, is not their cup of tea either, among other reasons because many see him as close to Galan. They sympathize with Santofimio but do not think that he can win. And the last presidential hopeful, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, is still getting off the ground, as he has not yet even returned from Moscow, where he is serving as ambassador. In light of this situation, there is but one name left, Duran. Although it would be an exaggeration to describe the feeling that he arouses in them as fervor, the fact is that he is a full-time, disciplined Liberal with a long track record in service to the party.

All of these intrigues are not easy for the average citizen to understand, and for this very reason Duran does not necessarily enter into their calculations. But for those who are in the know about electoral matters, the events of last week have enormous implications in favor of the former Bogota mayor. In just a week Duran is on the

verge of moving from last to first place in congressional strength, with the snowball effect that such momentum entails. We can even assume that the group of rebels will try to railroad him through as the official candidate at the 22 July convention without waiting the remaining 9 months until the consultation with the people.

What Lies Ahead

All of this is easier said than done, though. Given that the consultation with the people was the prescription for uniting the Liberal Party, it will be very hard to dismantle it. To begin with, it will be backed at the July convention by the combined forces of Samper, Galan and Santofimio, which account for more or less half of the delegates, not to mention that former President Turbay has pledged to carry out the accords. Besides this, if the consultation were to be revoked, Galan would have practically no choice but to return to the dissident path, even though it would be very hard for him to do so, because having laid down his weapons for nothing would be unacceptable. Another consideration is that under these circumstances Santofimio would be an absolutely certain dissident candidate. The senator from Tolima is coming to the conclusion that in Colombia dissent works better than discipline, and he is convinced that if the votes are allowed to be counted, he will get more of them than his detractors think. If the ground rules are changed on him, there is no one who can stop him.

Realizing this, the rebels want to offer a compromise between a convention and a consultation. There has been talk of an expanded electoral college, of consulting councilmen and former mayors and of similar arrangements, which could increase the number of people choosing the candidate from the 900 current delegates to between 5,000 and 10,000. But any such option has to be approved first by the convention, where the two bands into which the party is divided today (for and against the consultation) seem to be equal in strength.

So what could happen? Since dismantling the consultation is almost impossible, the rebels' alternative is to go all out for Duran so that when the time comes for the consultation with the people, his candidacy will be almost official. If the group maintains its discipline and if decisive elements like the coastal bloc and the heavyweights from the main regions join in, Duran will win the most votes at the consultation, beating not only Galan but Samper, Santofimio, Holmes Trujillo and anyone else as well. Under those conditions the way would be paved for his candidacy. For all these reasons, the yellow shirt that Galan snatched from him close to a month ago could be back on the chest of the man who has so far been the "lone ranger."

Ecuador

President Says Opposition Behind Coup Rumors

PA2803235889 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has attributed the rumors of a possible coup to the opposition's powerlessness. He also discounted the possibility that the Armed Forces would participate in a coup. The president said this is part of the opposition's psychological war to discredit his government. Borja said the opposition campaign started with jokes to discredit the government. Now, Borja added, the opposition has started to disseminate false rumors. Every day, he said, the opposition claims that there will be coups and that ministers and governors will resign. But all this is absolutely false, Borja added. [passage indistinct]

The president also said his government is not the watchdog of anyone's private interests, but it is at the service of 10 million Ecuadoreans, all of whom own the country. Borja said he will not change. Borja was commenting on the private sector's criticism of his policies.

Paraguay

Presidential Inauguration Announced for 14-15 May

PY2803143589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 10

[Excerpts] High-ranking officials from friendly countries will attend the presidential inauguration on 14-15 May.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will not be able to attend the ceremony because there will be presidential elections in Argentina on those days, but the possibility that Brazilian President Jose Sarney may attend has not been ruled out.

Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana yesterday said at Government House that the presidential inauguration will be held on 14 and 15 May. The official agenda has not yet been released, but high-ranking officials of friendly countries are expected to attend. [passage omitted]

The presidential inauguration, which over the past few decades has always taken place on 15 August, will thus be moved to 14 and 15 May.

According to another source, there will be ceremonies recalling the independence of Paraguay on 14 May—Paraguay's Independece Day—while special activities are scheduled for the inauguration on 15 May. [passage omitted]

Laino Outlines PLRA's Draft Platform

PY2803153289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 10

[Text] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] President Domingo Laino has outlined to HOY the "basic ideas" of the draft platform the PLRA will adopt for the 1 May general elections.

He said: "We want to have a true state of law. For this we propose full guarantees for freedom of the press, of expression, of religion, of movement, and of assembly; the total abolition of banishment; and congressional

power to impeach and dismiss the president of the Republic for violating national laws. We consider this last proposal very important."

Then he added: "We propose a restriction barring the president of the Republic from being reelected for consecutive terms; a national constituent assembly, with representatives subject to direct election and proportional representation; amendment of the electoral law and of the political parties' statutes; and abolition of the executive branch's power to dissolve Congress."

"We believe that the defense minister must be a civilian or a retired military officer. We also propose that the chief of state not be allowed to delegate the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces. We want to foster professional training for members of the Armed Forces and police in the country and abroad, without subjecting them to foreign ideological indoctrination or to sectarian or partisan political indoctrination. We call for professional Armed Forces and administration, independent of political parties. We also want a military hierarchy that is integrated into civilian society," he said.

The "draft" platform released by Laino also proposes "that the police profession be made respectable; that the education program of the Military School and the Superior War School be revised—both the military training and the social, economic, human, and legal sciences; that professors be hired on the basis of merit and capability; and that compulsory military service be replaced by a draft by lottery."

He also proposes that "the life of the conscript be humanized and respected; that the use of soldiers for private purposes be prohibited; that military salaries be increased substantially; and that military and police officers be prohibited from engaging in profitable, noninstitutional activities."

"We want an economy at the service of man. Man is the objective of the economic system. We want to promote free initiative rather than public and private monopoly. We support a monetary, credit, and investment policy that will favor productive activity and will discourage speculation. We will support small- and medium-size enterprises and will discourage the formation of oligopolies. We want to improve and restructure the public sector, especially the state enterprises that operate with consistent deficits."

The PLRA will reportedly also propose a "policy of public social programs and programs to support production; the promotion of free enterprise in order to expand the internal market; and the renegotiation of the foreign debt. We regard as very important an overall agrarian reform to end unproductive large-scale land ownership, and we want land obtained illegally during the dictatorship to be given to landless farmers."

The PLRA's social slogan is "Justice in Liberty," and it proposes a "rational and coordinated struggle against underdevelopment, against poverty, and against the unequal opportunity. Such a struggle will help create a plentiful and free society. It also proposes that special attention be given to the needs and expectations of the peasants, who are valuable producers of national wealth."

Laino added: "We want firm support for the incentives that Paraguayan youth needed to improve professionally and to develop civic maturity and social security. I advocate a substantial increase in the budget for education, health, housing, and social welfare. In this regard, we need a national plan to coordinate the efforts of the government and of the humanitarian private business sector."

He said: "We want full guarantees and substantial government support for the free exercise and development of union activities. We encourage cooperatives for production and consumption through legislative reforms, tax incentives, and technical and financial aid. We advocate the creation of more jobs and the enforcement of the minimum salary. We want a reformed labor code that includes mechanisms for workers and employers to reach an agreement. We want the National Minimum Salary Council to be made up of at least 50 percent union members. We support the social and cultural rights of women and the rights of those who work as servants and professionals."

Laino referred to the slogan "creativity and life." The PLRA wants "to strengthen and expand the national culture as a means of integrating Paraguay into modern America and the modern world. We want a democratic and pluralist cultural policy to restore the multicultural nature of Paraguay."

The PLRA also advocates the "eradication of illiteracy and the teaching of Spanish and Guarani through the most modern methods and technology. We want to exempt cultural, humanitarian, and scientific activities from taxes. We want Guarani taught at the primary, secondary, and university levels."

The PLRA also proposes a "thorough review of the program of civic education as part of the development of future citizens. We want to help improve the teachers of technical subjects and of the humanities."

Laino added: "These are the basic proposals and definitions we are studying. Of course, we are going to release a definite proposal this week. We already have a large technical group working on it. The general coordinator is Juan Felix Bogado Gondra. We also have several committees, including cattlemen, businessmen, sociologists, anthropologists, cultural workers, and economists—both party members and nonparty-members. We have the most capable people in the country."

Laino pointed out that this is a "draft program" and that "the final program is not yet ready. We are drawing up a project based on the draft program. The project will be studied. The final program will emerge after a study in made at various technical and political levels.

True Liberal Party Registers With JEC

PY2803203889 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] The True Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Teete] [teete is guarani word] headed by brothers Carlos and Fernando Levi Rufinelli registered at the Central Electoral Board [JEC] this morning. The registration was done at a special JEC session during which representatives of the Liberal Party objected to the registration.

So far 12 political parties have registered at the JEC to participate in the 1 May elections.

Peru

Garcia Invited to Amazon Meeting in Manaus

PY2803141389 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney has invited his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia to a meeting of presidents of Amazonian countries on 6 May in Manaus. The invitation was extended by Brazilian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Paulo Tarso, who met with Alan Garcia at Government House. Tarso said that the presidential meeting will seek to show to the world, especially the industrialized nations, that Amazonian countries are strongly united.

Narcoterrorists Reportedly Attack Police Post

PY2803151989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (EFE)—A local radio station has reported that alleged Shining Path members and mercenaries at the service of drug traffickers today attacked an important police station in the jungle district of Uchiza, and that there may be many casualties on both sides.

The radio station Radio Programas del Peru (PPR) bases their information on a report from a spokesman of another police station of the National Police located in Tocache, 145 km south of Uchiza.

The radio station said that it was able to contact the Tocache police through a ham operator and that the information received indicates that fighting lasted for several hours may have caused many casualties.

Radio Programas said that the so-called "narcoterrorists" attacked the police station with firearms and explosives.

The Uchiza police station is 550 km southeast of Lima and has a compliment of about 50 policemen. The police spokesman told the radio station that the number of terrorists who attacked the police station is not known.

A Peruvian Telephone Company source said that the communication between Lima and Uchiza, both telephone and radio, "are interrupted" but the reasons for this was not given.

Uchiza is located in the San Martin Department, in the Alto Huallaga region, which has been dominated by Shining Path for the last 2 years and has allied itself with powerful drug traffickers according to Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo.

Both Uchiza and Tocache are considered potential zones for growing coca and for making cocaine base. They have been under a state of emergency and military control since 1987.

According to the National Police, Peru is the largest producer of coca and the biggest potential seller of cocaine base to international drug traffickers.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY2903024289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0215 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] This is communique No 011-89 released by the Interior Ministry which states:

1. On 27 March, from 1710 to 2250, the police base in Uchiza, Mariscal Caceres Province, San Martin Department, was attacked by armed narcoterrorists.

The group was made up of approximately 300 male members of the Shining Path and notorious local drug traffickers, some of whom are Colombian. The men arrived in six or seven trucks from two opposite directions. After the battle, they fled with their wounded and dead comrades which, according to local residents, totaled about 50 men.

2. This is considered a narcoterrorist attack because on 25 March at 0500, the national police arrested nine Colombian drug traffickers from whom cocaine base and weapons similar to the ones used by the atackers were confiscated.

3. The aggressors used sophisticated, long-range, automatic weapons such as grenade launchers. They also had three mortars, an enough ammunition to maintain a long fight. Some of the cartridges found in the area show that they come from weapons not normally used in Peru.

4. Due to a shortage of ammunition because of the absence of reinforcements, who were held up by bad weather conditions, the following policemen died in combat: Major Carlos Farfan Correa, Captain Walter Moscoso Cardenas, Lieutenant Walter Renguifo Lopez,

First Sergeant Willian Escalante Caceres, Corporal Alipio Arcela Madrid, Corporal Antonio Contreras Navarro, Corporal Luis Cardenas Valera, Corporal Reinaldo Macias Fernandez, Agent Eric Felix Pacherri, Agent Huila Sibda Aquino, officer Carlos Ricra Papara, Sergeant Maximo Vera Tocksen, Sergeant Victor Salazar Clave, Sergeant Vigil Segovia Rebolledo, Sergeant Ruperto Moscoso Carrera, Sergeant Victor Rizo Escobedo, Sergeant Luis Castro Guisado, Sergeant Fernando Rojas Baldeon, Sergeant Luis Quipe Martinez, Sergeant Leonardo Hugaz Ramos, Corporal Ologuren Garcia Ortiz, Corporal Rolando Aiquipa Contreras, guard Jose Zina Caetano, and guard Acalardo Jara Soto.

Corporal Aspilla Cordoba is missing. Three other civilians, two women and a man, also died and a young girl was wounded.

5. At the end of a 6-hour courageous defense of the Uchiza police station, the narcoterrorist attackers robbed the local branches of the National Bank and of Interbank and, using special tools, opened vaults, took funds, and destroyed documents.

They also attacked and robbed three pharmacies and stores, the Public Registration Office, and private property.

The terrorists also left bullet holes in the Uchiza church.

6. The following officials went to Uchiza early this morning: the president of the council of ministers and interior minister, the defense minister, the director general of the National Police and other senior police officers. Army and police forces were also deployed to Uchiza to safeguard security there and in the surrounding area.

Policeman Killed by Alleged Terrorists
PY2803140989 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] The Police Public Relations Directorate has reported that Police Lieutenant (Rolando Cruz Tantavilca) has been killed by alleged subversives in the vicinity of the Pucallpa market No 3. The lieutenant was 30 years old and graduated in 1984 from the Police Investigations School. His body is being mourned at the (Aramburu) Avenue complex in Trujillo. It will be taken to Tacna for burial today.

Attackers Derail Railroad Car, 3 Killed
PY2803133389 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Unidentified attackers have derailed an empty car of the national railway company on the Chosica-Lima stretch, killing 3 persons. Through a communique the railway company has reported that an investigation has begun.

Japan Grants $2.5 Million To Promote Crops
PY2803205989 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Engineer Cesar Navas, an adviser to the Peruvian Jojoba Association [Asociacion Peruana de Jojoba], has reported that the Japanese Government has granted $2.5 million to promote jojoba crops and create jojoba production units in the departments if Ica, Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna and Lambayeque. He also said that international experts will hold a meeting in September to discuss investment projects in Peru.

Uruguay

Italy To Finance Projects for $152 Million
PY2103160589 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 9 Mar 89 p 7

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Ope Pasquet and Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Agnelli have reported that Italy will contribute $152 million to finance Uruguayan development projects to be implemented in the next 3 years. Out of that total, $91 million will be granted in credits to be paid back under very favorable conditions. The remaining $61 million will be donated.

The agreement, which was drafted by the Mixed Uruguayan-Italian Committee, was signed yesterday. It includes a 3-year (1989-91) program for cooperation in the productive and social areas. The Italian funds will be used in the sector of energy, telecommunications, airport modernization, health, industry, agriculture, and professional training, among others.

The $91-million credit will have an interest rate of 1.75 percent and will be paid in 20 years, with a 5-year grace period. This money will be used in the construction of a thermoelectric plant for the UTE [National Administration of State Electric Power and Transmissions]. UTE Chairman Jose Serrato has said this plant may be ready to begin operatings by the end of 1990. Some money will be used to finance the modernization of telephones in rural areas; the improvement of airports; and for the training of technicians who will work on improving the airports.

The $61-million donation will be used to install cardiology equipment for infants; to train specialists in mental health; to support agricultural, industrial, and mining sector cooperatives; and to finance agricultural biogenetic studies. It will also finance a feasibility study for the construction of a bridge connecting Colonia and Buenos Aires. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

*** Fernandez Criticizes Perez' Economic Program**
33480141b Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 26 Feb 89 Sec 1 p 15

[Text] COPEI [Social Christian Party] considers it criminal that the country should be subjected to the risk of a useless sacrifice, and cites the need to revise the package of measures put forth by the national government.

According to the leading opposition party, never in the history of our democracy has the iniciation of a new government caused such a degree of perplexity and uncertainty as that currently besetting us. Anxiety and uneasiness are widespread, especially among the middle class and the low-income sectors.

The country's economic situation was analyzed in depth by COPEI's secretary general, Dr Eduardo Fernandez, at a press conference that he held during the noon hour, at which he was accompanied by his party's National Committee and special guests.

In his analysis Fernandez not only criticized the measures that President Perez has announced to the country, but also lashed out harshly against the Lusinchi administration, which he blamed for what he termed economic disaster. We are reprinting below part of the document submitted by Fernandez:

The Current Situation

"All of us Venezuelans realize that the current situation of the country calls for deep-seated change. Faced with a difficult and uncertain picture, our first obligation is to call for unity and solidarity among all, so as to cope with the adversity with courage, a willingness to overcome, and faith in the future of Venezuela. In difficult times, nations show their greatness by the determination to be winners.

"The government has recognized that it is by now impossible to continue hiding the reality. The international reserves are depleted. The growth in public spending has brought the government deficit to extremes that are causing accelerated inflation. The government lacks funds to cope with the payment of imports totaling in the millions, which the Lusinchi administration authorized and guaranteed last year. For the first time in our history gold has left the Central Bank's vaults to go abroad, to guarantee loans contracted by the government."

The Announced Measures

"For the past several years, the Social Christian Party, COPEI, and I myself, as its secretary general, have been advocating a radical change in the Venezuelan economy.

"We have criticized in particular the hypertrophy in the public sector, the unforgivable squandering, the inexcusable, inexplicable vast amount of funds that the nation has accrued during the past few years, the foreign debt, and the unjust distribution of the national wealth.

"We have proposed a new model, based on a diversified, competitive economy, in which the factors of production, business owners, and workers, and not bureaucrats, will be the driving forces for development."

The Danger of a Useless Sacrifice

"But the government has predicted major sacrifices for the society, and very few for itself. In fact, the only sure, inevitable consequences of the new policy are, precisely, negative ones for the people. The currency devaluation, the rise in prices of gasoline and public services, and the increase in interest rates, among other things, are omens that, this year, we shall experience the sharpest increases in the cost of living in our country's history. The government plan also stipulates, as an essential factor, the procurement of loans from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other sources which will be translated into an increase in our foreign debt amounting to over $20 billion by the end of the 5-year period.

"It is criminal that the country should run the risk of a useless sacrifice.

"We must be heedful of the threat of another disappointment. The government's package involves subjecting the country to the International Monetary Fund's adjustment programs, which have failed in Latin American countries, and many of whose conditions coincide with those being experienced by Venezuela at present. During the period 1982-88 Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico implemented the fund's programs. The result was that debt increased substantially, inflation became virtually uncontrollable, and devaluations in some instances reached the magnitude of several thousand percent. That experience alone requires the government to pay the utmost attention to the plan now being proposed for enactment, and to correct disturbing signs that can already be observed, calling into question the results that the government policy will have."

Government Becomes Rich While Country Becomes Poor

"The published plan threatens to debilitate our economy further still, because of the excessive increase in the sums of money held by the government, which will therefore be the only one to amass wealth. As a result of devaluation, we shall be paying at least twice the current price for nearly all imports, but the government will receive for its dollars twice the number of bolivares that it now obtains. We shall pay the government far higher rates for public services which, furthermore, are annoyingly inefficient. Subsidies will be eliminated. New taxes will be created. The public debt will be increased with loans that the government itself will receive. Everyone's sacrifice will make the government richer and the country and every Venezuelan poorer.

"No serious measure has been adopted to reduce public spending. On the contrary, more public spending has been announced, as well as the creation of new bureaucratic entities, including the resurrection of the Agriculture Marketing Corporation, of such regretful memory."

Fragility of a House of Cards

"The program shows obvious inconsistency and many weaknesses, and the uncertainty of the outcome should not be concealed from the country of which it demands backing and a willingness to sacrifice. According to the government itself, the feasiblily of the package depends on maintaining the flow of funding from the Monetary Fund and the other agencies that would supposedly grant us loans. That money will not be received all at once, but gradually, and as the goals of the plans are fulfilled, as determined by those agencies. If for any reason—even one dissociated from the government—the Monetary Fund's assessment indicates to it that the country's economy is not performing to its satisfaction, the foreign financing would be cut off, and the plan would collapse."

There Has Been No Agreement

"This program is even more negative because of the political weakness of the package of measures. The government has claimed that it is willing to reach agreement, but it has excluded the political forces from that agreement, confining itself to presenting its economic program to them as a fait accompli, without any real opportunity to debate its scope and effects.

"At present that attitude has become exacerbated by the government's unacceptable attitude of disrespect for the National Congress, where the opposition majority has quite rightfully demanded to receive the information which will be the basis for the debate that the people's representatives will hold on the economic situation. It is foolish for the government to attempt to evade congressional control, and to disregard the constitutional authority of the Congress.

"COPEI will expend all its effort on the defense of the social sectors that will be penalized by the package. Without losing sight of the national interest, we shall be the conscience of the country, reminding the government that one of the most inalienable foundations of our way of life is complete respect for the individual and social rights of human beings, as the preamble to the Constitution proclaims.

"The working population will experience a drop in the real value of its wages. It is an imperative of social justice and an economic necessity that effective mechanisms be established making it possible to preserve the purchasing power of the social sectors hardest hit by inflation.

"Unemployment will become considerably worse, aggravated by the rise in prices which will make the situation of the unemployed unbearable. Without effective action in this respect, social explosions with unpredictable consequences may be expected.

"The situation for the middle class is gloomy as well. There are many professional people who, in addition to the general prospect of becoming proletarianized, are anxious about the rise in interest rates. We demand extensive measures to protect all those mortgage debtors who are faced with the threat of losing their homes. The measures announced thus far are insufficient, and must be supplemented.

"The productive sectors demand a policy of stimulation to promote their activity. The farmers will suffer from higher interest [rates] and rising prices for equipment, and they will face competition from foreign farm products which can be imported freely. The survival of small and medium-sized industry will be seriously threatened by the exorbitant increases that will be seen in their production costs, at a time of shrinking demand. Industry as a whole will be faced with at least a doubling of the prices of imported components."

Thus, We Are Committed

"We realize that the opposition's task is also hard and difficult, because it must be carried out seriously, without demagoguery and without losing sight of the country's supreme interest. We shall always be willing to offer our positive assistance, and not just healthy criticism, so that Venezuela may surmount the present adversities.

"We are all willing to cooperate in an effort to enable the economy to recover. What concerns us is the possibility of a useless sacrifice.

"The government is the one primarily obligated to do what is necessary to prevent the burdens that it is now imposing on the population from proving futile. We demand vigilance by the government to correct directions, as well as discipline, and an example of austerity, good judgment, and understanding.

"The Venezuelan people will know how to act in keeping with the times, but they will punish those who cheat them again. The times demand unity and courage from all of us, to cope with the difficulties."

*** Dean of UCV Economics School on Debt Problem**

3348014la Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 25 Feb 89 Sec 1 p 15

[Text] The dean of the Central University [UCV] School of Economic and Social Sciences, Elias Eljuri, claims that, far from upholding its current position, the government should, rather, suspend payment of the debt service, and proceed to negotiate under totally different conditions.

Eljuri maintains that the country "foolishly" paid $26 billion during the past few years, and now the foreign debt remains at the same level.

He made an extensive analysis of the package of economic measures, predicting what he considers will be the repercussions for the majority of the population. But before doing so he recalled situation which existed previously, that is, until January 1989.

In the first place, he notes that during recent years the regressive distribution of income increased, without anything done to halt that trend.

The studies conducted by the school's research institute have determined that the minimum family income for 1988 should have been approximately 9,273 bolivares per month, but in fact, 77 percent of Venezuelan households have income of under 9,000 bolivares.

"Last year we submitted statistics that we have now updated. In 1987 the price of the basic market basket of goods and services was about 7,888 bolivares, and for 1988 it rose to 9,200 bolivares. In 1975 the average wage of Venezuelans was 3,793 bolivares, and in order to achieve the mininal living standard that we had in 1975 we would have required an income of 19,478 bolivares in 1988. So, during the past few years the population's prosperity declined to unprecedented levels."

He claims that now the package of economic measures, which demands sacrifices only of the lower income sectors, will merely serve to accentuate the social inequality existing in the country; in other words, the rich will become richer and the poor, poorer.

"One can hardly expect a government committed to the country's most powerful sectors, which financed its election campaign to a large extent and which currently hold positions of power, to develop a policy contrary to its own interests. Last year the Central Bank gave the various banking sectors over 20 billion bolivares in rediscounts and advance payments, at 6.5 percent interest. And, through the various devices used, the banks have not lent at less than 20 percent interest, on the average.

"The most telling fact was the large profits that they made, totaling nearly 9 billion bolivares, on which they paid ridiculous taxes. The RECADI [Exchange Rate Differential System] policy helped to create new millionaires, and helped old millionaires to increase their fortunes impressively, to the point where there are economic groups with fortunes exceeding 50 billion bolivares."

For these reasons Dean Eljuri believes that the economic measures will contribute to a heightening of the process of deterioration among the middle and working class, and marginal sectors.

"Inflation will not be under 80 percent if all the measures are implemented, namely: devaluation of the bolivar as a result of the exchange unification, a rise in interest rates and the removal of controls, and an increase in rates for public services and gasoline; to this we must add the government's speculative nature and lack of control."

The studies made at the school showed, before the package of measures, an inflation rate of 45.9 percent for this year. Because we have had 75 percent inflation over the past 2 years, and because this phenomenon acts as a tax which takes from some and gives to others, over the next few months the wage hike will have disappeared.

"It is intolerable that predominant sectors in the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] should relate the debate on the package of measures to a 30-percent wage hike. We cannot understand how it is possible for the labor confederation not to reject a package of measures that will be subjected to the policy of the International Monetary Fund."

Dean Eljuri also discussed the rise in interest rates and the removal of controls which, in his view, will help to heighten inflation and feed a recession in the construction industry, because with rates of 35 percent no one will be able to obtain loans.

"I don't know in who those people are who ask for positive real rates, in other words, rates exceeding the inflation index which, if it reaches 80 percent this year, would total 83 or 85 percent. With the current 13 percent interest rate, a middle-class family would require a monthly income of 35,000 bolivares to be able to purchase an apartment measuring 100 square meters, at 10,000 bolivares per square meter; this assumes that the family had 400,000 bolivares for a downpayment, and had access to a loan of 600,000 bolivares. Just imagine if these rates simply double, in the context of the population's real income!"

Eljuri stresses that, thus far, the policies on subsidies have not been clearly defined. One only hears about the housing subsidy which, according to the minister of urban development, will exclude a minimum of 50,000 families.

As for the rise in gasoline prices, he thinks that, in a country where food is transported is by truck, and where there is no efficient mass transportation, it will only serve to worsen the population's living conditions.

"We must add the increase in prices of vehicles and spare parts, with an automotive fleet of vans and buses which is deteriorating each day. I wonder how a driver will be able to obtain a loan, and how many hours he will have to work in order to pay the interest. But the most serious situation will be suffered by the unemployed, and those who will be added to them because of the recessive policy that the implementation of the measures will entail."

Finally, Eljuri asks whether the new debt, about $40 billion, will be a government strategy, in the sense of acquiring new debts and later deciding not to pay, "something that I doubt, owing to the composition of the cabinet. It is difficult to be on good terms with God and the devil, and it is difficult to satisfy the appetites of certain sectors without sacrificing the working classes."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, economic, military, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed, with personal and place names rendered in accordance with FBIS transliteration style.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Soviet Union, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.